

## NTSB: Train going too fast at curve before wreck

FRANK ELTMAN  
JIM FITZGERALD  
Associated Press

YONKERS, New York (AP)

— A commuter train that derailed over the weekend, killing four passengers, was hurtling at 82 mph (132 kph) as it entered a 30 mph (48 kph) curve, a federal investigator said Monday. But whether the wreck was the result of human error or mechanical trouble was unclear, he said.

Safety experts said the tragedy might have been prevented if Metro-North Railroad had installed automated crash-avoidance technology that safety authorities have been urging for decades.

The locomotive's speed was extracted from the train's two data recorders after the Sunday morning accident, which happened in the Bronx along a bend so sharp that the speed limit drops from 70 mph (112 kph) to 30 mph (48 kph). National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener would not disclose what the engineer operating the train told investigators, and he said results of drug and alcohol tests were not yet available. Investigators are also examining the engineer's cellphone, apparently to determine whether he was distracted. The engineer, William Rockefeller, was injured and "is totally traumatized by everything that has happened," said Anthony Bottalico, executive



director of the rail employees union. He said Rockefeller, 46, was cooperating fully with investigators.

"He's a sincere human being with an impeccable record that I know of. He's diligent and competent," Bottalico said. Rockefeller has been an engineer for about 11 years and a Metro-North employee for about 20, he said.

Weener sketched a scenario that suggested that the throttle was let up and the brakes were fully applied way too late to stave off disaster.

He said the throttle went to idle six seconds before the derailed train came to a complete stop — "very late in the game" for a train going that fast — and the brakes were fully engaged five seconds before the train stopped.

It takes about a mile (1.6 kilometers) for a train going 70 mph (112 kph) to stop, according to Steve Ditmeyer, a former Federal Railroad Administration official who now teaches at Michigan State University. Asked whether the tragedy was the result of human error or faulty brakes, Weener said: "The answer is, at this point in time, we can't tell."

But he said investigators are not aware of any problems with the brakes during the nine stops the train made before the derailment.

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**NSTB**

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The wreck came two years before the federal government's deadline for Metro-North and other railroads to install automatic-slowdown technology designed to prevent catastrophes caused by human error.

Metro-North's parent agency and other railroads have pressed the government to extend Congress' 2015 deadline a few years because of the cost and complexity of the Positive Train Control system, which uses GPS, wireless radio and computers to monitor trains and stop them from colliding, derailing or going the wrong way.

Ditmeyer said the technology would have monitored the brakes and would not have allowed the train in Sunday's tragedy to exceed the speed limit.

"A properly installed PTC system would have prevented this train from crashing," he said. "If the



**National Transportation Safety Board board member Earl Weener speaks during a news conference alongside New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, right, at the scene of a Metro-North passenger train derailment in the Bronx borough of New York, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013. The train derailed on a curved section of track in the Bronx on Sunday morning, coming to rest just inches from the water and causing multiple fatalities and dozens of injuries, authorities said. Metropolitan Transportation Authority police say the train derailed near the Spuyten Duyvil station.**

Associated Press

engineer would not have taken control of slowing the train down, the PTC system would have."

On Sunday, the train was about half full, with about

150 people aboard, when it ran off the rails around 7:20 a.m. while rounding a bend where the Harlem and Hudson rivers meet. The lead car landed inches

from the water. In addition to the four people killed, more than 60 were injured. Seven victims were still in intensive care at one hospital, and two patients were

reported in critical condition at another.

The injured included five police officers who were heading to work, according to Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on NBC's "Today" show that he thinks speed will turn out to be a factor in a crash he called "your worst nightmare." The train was configured with its locomotive in the back instead of the front. Weener said that is common, and a train's brakes work the same way no matter where the locomotive is. Ditmeyer said the locomotive's location has virtually no effect on train safety.

The dead were identified as Donna L. Smith, 54; James G. Lovell, 58; James M. Ferrari, 59; and Kisook Ahn, 35, an immigrant from South Korea.

The derailment came amid a troubled year for Metro-North, and marked the first time in the railroad's 31-year history that a passenger was killed in an accident. □

# Federal jury to hear case against ex-BP engineer

**MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press**

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Jury selection began Monday for the Justice Department's case against a former BP drilling engineer charged with deleting text messages and voicemails about the company's response to its massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dozens of potential jurors filled a New Orleans courtroom for the start of Kurt Mix's federal trial, which is expected to last up to three weeks. Attorneys could give their opening statements as early as Tuesday.

One by one, U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. questioned members of the jury pool privately for several hours. He dismissed some of them and ordered the rest to return Tuesday for a second day of jury selection.

Mix, 52, of Katy, Texas, was indicted last year on two counts of obstruction of



**In this April 24, 2012 file photo, former BP engineer Kurt Mix leaves the federal courthouse after a hearing in Houston. A jury is set to hear the Justice Department's case against the BP engineer charged with deleting text messages and voicemails about the company's response to its massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Jury selection for Mix's federal trial is scheduled to start Monday, Dec. 2, 2013 in New Orleans. Mix is one of four current or former BP employees charged with crimes related to the deadly disaster or its aftermath. His case is the first to be tried.**

justice. Prosecutors claim he deliberately deleted strings of text messages to and from a supervisor and a BP PLC contractor to hamper a grand jury's investigation of the spill.

Mix is one of four current or former BP employees charged with crimes related to the nation's worst offshore oil spill. His case is the first to be tried.

The charges against Mix aren't related to any of the events leading up to the April 2010 blowout of BP's Macondo well, which triggered an explosion that killed 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon rig.

Mix was part of a team of experts who scrambled to seal the well, which spewed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf. Mix, who worked on BP's unsuccessful attempt to stop the gusher using a technique called "top kill," had access to internal data about the amount of oil flowing from the well.

On May 26, 2010, the day the top kill began, Mix estimated in a text to a supervisor that more than 630,000 gallons of oil per day were spilling — three times BP's public estimate of 210,000 gallons and a rate far greater than what the company said top kill could handle.

BP repeatedly notified Mix that he was obligated to preserve all of his spill-related records. But the indictment says he deleted a string of text messages to and from the supervisor, Jonathan Sprague, from his iPhone on Oct. 4, 2010.

Mix also allegedly deleted a string of text messages he exchanged with a BP contractor named Wilson Arabie in August 2011, several weeks after federal authorities issued a subpoena to BP for copies of some of Mix's correspondence.

In a court filing, Mix's lawyers said the deleted messages were "predominantly — and arguably entirely — innocuous and insignifi-

cant in substance."

"And in the lone text message directly referencing the Macondo Incident ('Yup, but taking another spanking'), Mix merely acknowledged what was already well known to government officials, the press corps, and millions of Americans watching CNN at the time: namely, that the ongoing top kill effort did not appear to be staunching the flow of oil from the Macondo Well," the defense attorneys wrote.

The indictment also accuses Mix of deleting one voicemail from Arabie, one voicemail from the supervisor and one voicemail from an unidentified caller that went through BP's general switchboard.

Each count of obstruction of justice carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Three other current or former BP employees await trials on spill-related criminal charges. □

# Fast-food protests planned for 100 U.S. cities

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fast-food workers in about 100 U.S. cities will walk off the job this Thursday, organizers say, which would mark the largest effort yet in a push for higher pay.

The actions would build on a campaign that began about a year ago to call attention to the difficulties of living on the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, or about \$15,000 a year for a full-time employee.

The protests are part of a growing push by labor unions, Democrats and other worker advocacy groups to raise wages in low-wage sectors. Last month, President Barack Obama said he would back a Senate measure to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10. That's more than a dollar higher than the \$9 an hour rate he previously proposed.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has promised a vote on the wage hike by the end of the year. But the measure is not expected to gain traction in the House, where Republican leaders

oppose it.

Protesters are calling for pay of \$15 an hour, although many see the figure as a rallying point rather than a near-term possibility. It's not clear how large the turnout will be at any given location, or whether the walkouts will be enough to disrupt operations.

Similar actions this summer had varying results, with some restaurants unable to serve customers and others seemingly unaffected.

The National Restaurant Association, an industry lobbying group, called the demonstrations a "campaign engineered by national labor groups," and said the vast majority of participants were union protesters rather than workers.

The group said that the demonstrations in the past "have fallen well short of their purported numbers." Kendall Fells, a New York City-based organizer for Fast Food Forward, said demonstrations are also planned for 100 cities, in addition to the 100 cities where workers will strike.

He said plans started coming together shortly after



In this Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, file photo, protesting fast food workers demonstrate outside a McDonald's restaurant on New York's Fifth Avenue, in New York.

Associated Press

the one-day actions in about 60 cities this summer. Organizers face an uphill battle in changing an industry that competes aggressively on low prices, a

practice that has intensified as companies including McDonald's Corp., Burger King Worldwide Inc. and Yum Brands Inc. face growing competition and

slow growth in the weak economy.

Fast-food workers have also been seen as difficult to organize, given the industry's high turnover rates. But the Service Employees International Union, which represents more than 2 million workers in health care, janitorial and other industries, has been providing organizational and financial support to the push for higher pay over the past year.

SEIU President Mary Kay Henry said she thinks the protests have helped encourage more states and localities to raise their minimum wage this year. She expects the number of cities and participants in the protests to grow next year as the union tries to keep pressure on fast food companies.

"I think we've totally changed the conversation about what these jobs are worth," Henry said. "These are no longer jobs being done by teenagers who need extra money. These are jobs being done by adults that can't find any other work." □

## Artist suing over Statue of Liberty stamp mix-up

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — An embarrassing mistake involving a Statue of Liberty stamp could come back to haunt the U.S. Postal Service.

The "forever" stamp design released in 2011 was not based on the statue in New York Harbor, as intended, but on a replica outside the New York-New York casino hotel in Las Vegas.

Now, the sculptor who made the Lady Liberty of the Las Vegas Strip is suing the government for copyright infringement.

Attorneys for Robert Davidson argue in a suit filed last week that the Sin City statue was more "fresh-faced" and "sultry" than the origi-

nal. They say these differences led the government to prefer Davidson's statue. A spokesman for the Postal Service did not immediately return calls. The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor has appeared on more than 20 stamps.

Davidson's attorneys say the Lady Liberty who welcomes weary gamblers has a more feminine form. The original, they say, was just an "inspiration" that provided "loose height, width and depth requirements." The claim notes that Davidson never visited the New York statue while creating his diminutive copy.

The two ladies do look unmistakably different. The Las Vegas sister has more stylish hair, and appears

to be smirking slightly. Her crown also features a plaque, visible but not legible in the stamp, that reads, "This One's For You Mom."

Davidson's attorneys did not respond to calls from The Associated Press, and it's unclear why the sculptor waited so long to sue.

In September, the artist who created the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington won a settlement of more than half a million dollars from the Postal Service on similar copyright infringement grounds. The post office selected the close-up photograph of the statue's head and crown from a photography service and did not find out about the error until a



This undated file handout image provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows the Lady Liberty first class postage stamp first issued in 2011.

Associated Press

stamp magazine ran an expose.

When they were alerted, officials said they still liked the design and had no plans to pull it out of circulation. By late 2011, the Postal Service had already printed more than 5 billion copies of the Las Vegas Lady Liberty forever stamps, according to the complaint. □

# Obama reveals \$100 million HIV research initiative

**LAURAN NEERGAARD**

**AP Medical Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama announced a new initiative at the National Institutes of Health in pursuit of a cure for HIV, saying his administration is redirecting \$100 million into the project to find a new generation of therapies.

"The United States should be at the forefront of new discoveries into how to put HIV into long-term remission without requiring lifelong therapies, or better yet, eliminate it completely," Obama said.

Obama made the announcement Monday at a White House event marking World AIDS Day, which was Sunday — and as health leaders and philanthropists gathered in Washington to determine how to replenish the major global health fund that combats AIDS and two of the world's other leading killers in low-income countries.

Obama pledged that the U.S. would contribute up to \$5 billion over the next three years to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria — as long as other countries do



**President Barack Obama speaks during a World AIDS Day event, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, in the South Court Auditorium in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington. The president announced a new initiative at the National Institutes of Health in pursuit of a cure for HIV. Obama said his administration is redirecting \$100 million into the project to find a new generation of therapies. He said the United States should be at the forefront of discoveries to eliminate HIV or put it into remission without requiring lifelong.**

their part and contribute \$10 billion. The U.S. matches contributions to the Geneva-based Global Fund on a 1-to-2 funding ratio set by Congress.

"Don't leave our money on the table," Obama said Monday.

The Global Fund is trying

to raise \$15 billion to cover its programs from 2014 to 2016. The fund supports HIV therapy for more than 5 million people, as well as treatments for tuberculosis and malaria, and the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets.

Also Monday, billionaire Bill

**Associated Press.**

Gates said he planned to nearly double his foundation's contribution to this next round of the Global Fund, to \$500 million. Gates had already pledged \$300 million, but told a small group of reporters at the National Institutes of Health that he would match an

additional \$200 million from private sources in an effort to draw in new donors.

Gates donned a biohazard suit and respirator for a close-up look at how NIH scientists are hunting new therapies for increasingly drug-resistant tuberculosis. He emerged from the laboratory energized about promising candidates — but with a sober message for policymakers: Defeating global killers like TB and AIDS requires adequate funding of both the delivery of today's treatments and the research required for better ones.

"We're deeply disappointed" in cuts to the NIH's budget, Gates said.

Earlier this year, NIH lost \$1.5 billion of its \$31 billion budget to automatic spending cuts known as the sequester, after years of budgets that didn't keep up with inflation. NIH is scheduled to lose another \$600 million from a second round of sequester cuts set to take effect next month. That in turn limits how much the NIH can devote to different diseases.

"Investing in research has huge paybacks," Gates said. □

## Illinois lawmakers prepare for pension vote

**By KERRY LESTER**

**SARA BURNETT**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)** — Illinois lawmakers began putting the pieces in place Monday for a potentially historic vote to address the nation's worst public-pension shortfall, as legislators scrambled to digest the complex deal and labor unions and other political heavyweights ratcheted up pressure for and against it. The House and Senate are expected to vote Tuesday on the years-in-the-making agreement. Legislative leaders say the proposal, which emerged last week, would save an estimated \$160 billion over 30 years and fully fund the state's five pension systems by 2044 through benefits

cuts for workers and retirees. As of Monday evening the plan had the support of a clear majority of members on a pension conference committee — enough to send the measure to the floors of both chambers. But its passage in the Democrat-controlled Legislature was not seen as assured.

Several lawmakers said they still were reviewing the 325-page piece of legislation, and a number of big questions remained for lawmakers to consider with little time before an expected vote. Republican state Rep. Tom Cross of Oswego said he was waiting for more information on the possible impact of the monumental deal.

"This is going to be the biggest vote most legislators make in their career," he said. "You've got one shot at this and you want to do it right." Illinois' pension funds are \$100 billion short of what's needed to pay benefits as currently promised to employees and retirees, largely because lawmakers for years have failed to fully fund the state's payments to the systems. But until last week, legislative leaders were unable to agree on how to fix the problem — even as pension payments grew to take up about one-fifth of the state's general funds budget and the major credit rating agencies repeatedly downgraded the state's rating. Illinois now



**Illinois Sen. Bill Brady, R-Bloomington, speaks with reporters at the Illinois State Capitol, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, in Springfield, Ill.**

**Associated Press**

has the lowest credit rating of any state in the country. A number of cities and states have dealt with similar pension troubles, but Illinois has notably lagged behind in finding the political will to deal with its ballooning financial problem. The proposal would push back the retirement age for workers ages 45 and younger, on a sliding scale.

The annual 3 percent cost-of-living increases for retirees would be replaced with a system that only provides the increases on a portion of benefits, based on how many years a beneficiary was in their job. Some workers would have the option of freezing their pension and starting a 401(k)-style defined contribution plan. □

# Gay weddings become reality in Hawaii with new law

OSKAR GARCIA  
Associated Press

**HONOLULU (AP)** — Six same-sex couples tied the knot in Hawaii early Monday, moments after a law granting them the right to do so took effect in the state often credited with starting the national gay marriage debate. Even more couples watched and waited their turn at the Waikiki resort. Across town, an openly gay Unitarian minister wed his partner of 15 years in a ceremony attended by clergy who pushed for the new law, plus Gov. Neil Abercrombie, who called the special legislative session that led to the law. "It's about making that commitment to the person that I want to spend the rest of my life with," said Saralyn Morales, moments after cutting a small wedding cake after marrying her partner, Isajah Morales.

Hawaii's gay marriage debate began in 1990 when two women applied for a marriage license, leading to a court battle and a 1993 state Supreme Court decision that said their rights to equal protection were violated by not letting them marry. That helped lead Congress to pass the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, which denied federal benefits to gay couples. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the act this year. An additional 14 states and the District of Columbia also allow same-sex marriage. Illinois was the 16th state to legalize it, and the law takes effect June 1. Hawaii's marriage laws allow couples to register for a license and be married the same day, a process conducive for tourists only in the state a short time. Couples can sign up for a license online, then be verified by any license agent throughout the state. Agents have set up shop throughout the islands, from resorts on Maui and the Big Island to hard-to-reach places on Kauai. Saralyn and Isajah Morales began filling out license applications a few minutes after midnight along with other couples. Several



After having their marriage license approved by the State of Hawaii, Melissa Vomvoris, left, a licensed marriage agent, gives a high five to couple Keola Akana, second from left, and Ethan Wung, right, as Rev. Brian Grieves looks on at the Sheraton Waikiki, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013 in Honolulu.

Associated Press

license agents huddled around four laptops in a tiny conference room, refreshing their web browsers to coax a state-run website to load. A few feet away, wedding guests sipped champagne, dined on curried shrimp and portabella mushroom sliders, listened to piano music and took pictures with each of seven cakes on display for the occasion. Couples who walked in to register on the spot posed with a three-tiered centerpiece cake, adorned with pink and white roses. "Next!" Keola Akana exclaimed after being the first of the group to complete the license application with his groom, Ethan Wung. An estimate from a University of Hawaii researcher says the state will get a \$217 million tourism boost over the next three years as a result of gay marriage. Hawaii's Legislature — overwhelmingly composed of Democrats — passed the law last month during a special session. □

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# Hospital worker gets 39 years in hepatitis case

**HOLLY RAMER**

**Associated Press**

**CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP)** — A traveling medical technician who stole painkillers and infected dozens of patients in multiple states with hepatitis C through tainted syringes was sentenced Monday to 39 years in prison.

"I don't blame the families for hating me," David Kwiatkowski said after hearing about 20 statements from people he infected and their relatives. "I hate myself." Kwiatkowski, 34, was a cardiac technologist in 18 hospitals in seven states before being hired at New Hampshire's Exeter Hospital in 2011.

He had moved from job to job despite being fired at least four times over allegations of drug use and theft.

Since his arrest last year, 46 people have been diagnosed with the same strain of hepatitis C he carries.

U.S. Attorney John Kacavas said the sentence "ensures that this serial infector no longer is in a position to do harm to innocent and vulnerable people."

Kwiatkowski admitted stealing painkillers and replacing them with saline-filled syringes tainted with his blood. He pleaded guilty in August to 16 federal drug charges.



This undated file photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Hampshire shows David Kwiatkowski, a former lab technician at Exeter, N.H.

Before he was sentenced, Kwiatkowski stood and faced his victims, saying he was very sorry and that his crimes were caused by an addiction to painkillers and alcohol. He told investigators he had been stealing drugs since at least 2003 and swapping syringes since at least 2008.

"There's no excuse for what I've done," he said. "I know the pain and suffering I have caused."

The victims spoke angrily

and tearfully of the pain that Kwiatkowski had inflicted by giving them hepatitis C, a blood-borne virus that can cause liver disease and chronic health problems. Authorities say the disease played a role in one woman's death.

"You may only be facing drug charges, but make no mistake, you are a serial killer," said Kathleen Murray of Elmira, New York, whose mother was infected in Baltimore and was too ill to

travel to New Hampshire for the sentencing.

Linda Ficken, 71, said she is haunted by the memory of Kwiatkowski standing at her hospital bedside in Kansas for more than an hour applying pressure to the catheter's entry site in her leg to control bleeding. "On one hand, you were saving my life, and on the other hand, your acts are a death sentence for me," Ficken, of Andover, Kansas, told him.

**Associated Press**

"Do I thank you for what you did to help me? Do I despise you for what your actions did and will continue to do for the rest of my life? Or do I simply just feel sorry for you being the pathetic individual you are?" Prosecutors said Kwiatkowski deserved 40 years for creating a "national public health crisis," putting a significant number of people at risk and caused substantial physical and emotional harm to a large number of victims.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Farley called Kwiatkowski's actions "exceedingly callous" and "unbelievably cruel" and noted that Kwiatkowski could've stolen painkillers without exposing his patients to hepatitis C. Defense lawyers argued that a 30-year sentence would better balance the seriousness of the crimes against Kwiatkowski's mental and emotional problems and his addiction to drugs and alcohol, which they said clouded his judgment.

Two of the 16 charges stem from the case of Eleanor Murphy, a Kansas woman who has since died. Authorities say hepatitis C played a contributing role. "You ultimately gave my mother a death sentence," Murphy's son, Ronnie, told Kwiatkowski. □

# Newtown to release school massacre call tapes

**NEWTOWN, Connecticut (AP)** — The town of Newtown, Connecticut says it will release the recordings of emergency calls from the school shooting that left 20 children and six educators dead.

A Connecticut Superior Court judge ruled last week that the tapes from last December should be released to The Associated Press after a fight over the records that have been withheld by investigators.

Newtown officials said in the statement Monday that the tapes will be available Wednesday.

The state's Freedom of Information Commission ruled in September that



the recordings should be provided to the AP. State's Attorney Stephen Sedensky III has been appealing the commission's ruling. He declined to comment Monday.

The AP plans to review the content and determine what, if any, of it would meet the news cooperative's standards for publication. □

**Jimmy Greene, left, kisses his wife Nelba Marquez-Greene as he holds a portrait of their daughter, Sandy Hook School shooting victim Ana Marquez-Greene at a news conference at Edmond Town Hall in Newtown, Conn., Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.**

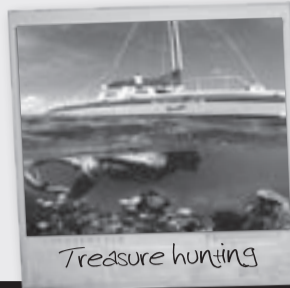
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Jimmy Greene, left, kisses his wife Nelba Marquez-Greene as he holds a portrait of their daughter, Sandy Hook School shooting

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VP Biden opens weeklong

# Asia trip with Tokyo stop

JOSH LEDERMAN  
Associated Press

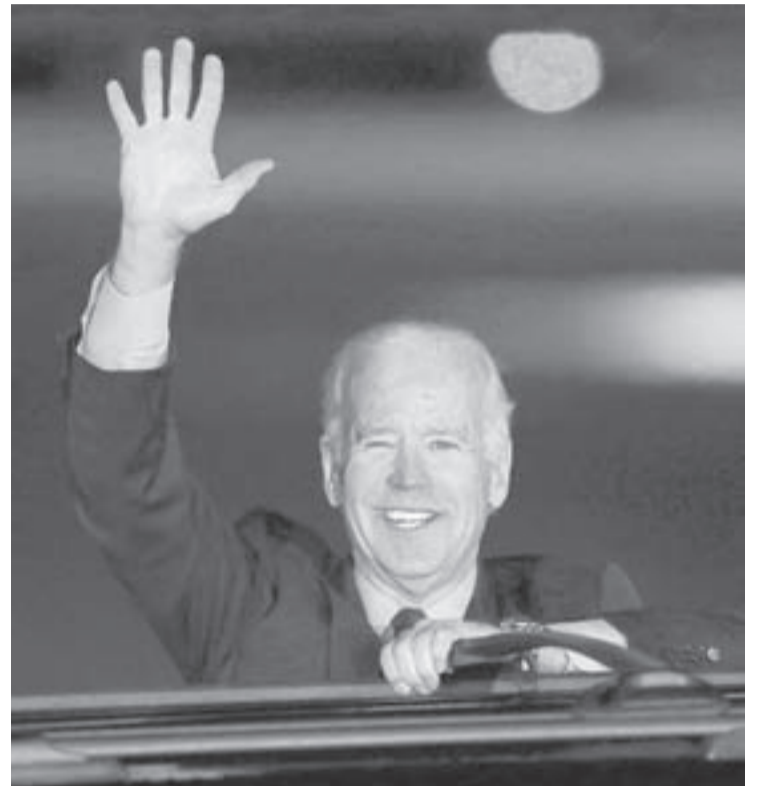
**TOKYO (AP)** — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has opened a weeklong trip to Asia aimed at showing the U.S. is still committed to increasing its engagement and influence in the region. Arriving in Tokyo late Monday evening, Biden was met on the tarmac by Caroline Kennedy, the new U.S. ambassador to Japan. He started his morning Tuesday by having coffee with Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, who is staying in the same hotel as the vice president.

Later Tuesday, Biden will meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He'll also tour a technology company and highlight the role of women in Japan's economy. The trip comes as many in Asia are questioning whether the U.S. will follow through with President Barack Obama's pledge to rebalance the U.S. foreign policy focus toward Asia.

"Yes, some question our staying power," Biden said in an interview with Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper. "But Japan knows that we

have stayed for more than 60 years, providing the security that made possible the region's economic miracle. Economically, diplomatically, militarily, we have been, we are, and we will remain a resident Pacific power."

Later in the week, Biden will meet in China with President Xi Jinping amid an international spat over China's new air defense zone. Biden will wrap up the trip in Seoul, where he will meet with South Korea's president and prime minister. He'll deliver a speech about U.S.-Korean relations and be briefed on the North Korean nuclear situation. □



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden waves upon arriving at the Tokyo International Airport, Monday Dec. 2, 2013. Biden is in Tokyo to meet with Japan's prime minister and lawmakers for the first leg of his Asia tour that includes China and South Korea.

Associated Press

## Gunman killed in rare Iceland police shooting

**LONDON (AP)** — Police in Iceland said Monday they shot dead a gunman — the first time armed police have killed someone in the nation.

Iceland, which has a tiny population of around 320,000, has a low crime rate and gun violence is extremely rare. Its regular police force does not carry firearms.

Haraldur Johannessen, National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, said Monday's incident was unprecedented.

Police said officers were called to an apartment in the Reykjavik suburb of Arbaer early Monday when a man fired a shotgun from inside the flat. Two policemen, who were not armed, were shot at when trying to enter the gunman's apartment.

Witnesses told local media that a smoke bomb was thrown into the apartment through a broken window in efforts to subdue the

man. A special armed unit then entered and fired at the man, who was rushed to the hospital, where he died. No one else has been injured. "All available members of the police force were deployed, and they tried to subdue him, but it was not successful," Reykjavik Metropolitan Police Commissioner Stefan Eiriksson told a press conference, according to local media website Visir. "The man began to shoot out the window of the apartment and it was decided to take action."

The motives of the man, who has not been named, are unclear. According to RUV, Iceland's national television station, the gunman was a man in his fifties and had been making threats to his neighbors. Shotguns for hunting are legal in Iceland. Many Icelanders believe that the country rarely sees gun violence in part because handguns are banned. □

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# Thai protest leader vows to escalate offensive

**JINDA WEDEL**  
**THANYARAT DOKSONE**  
**Associated Press**

**BANGKOK (AP)** — A fire-brand opposition leader vowed Monday to escalate his campaign to topple Thailand's government, and ordered his followers to storm Bangkok's police headquarters after they fought all day with riot police protecting heavily barricaded key buildings. Earlier Monday, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said she is willing to do anything it takes to end the violent protests but made it clear she cannot accept the opposition's demand to hand power to an unelected council. Yingluck was elected with an overwhelming majority in 2011, and many observers see the protesters' demand as unreasonable if not outlandish.

"Right now we don't see any way to resolve the problem under the constitution," she said in the brief 12-minute news conference televised live.

Yingluck's comments highlighted the unusual political deadlock Thailand finds itself in with no clear solution in sight. The stand-off intensified as protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban gave a defiant speech late Monday to thousands of cheering supporters at a government complex they seized last week when the anti-government demonstrations started.

The protests have renewed fears of prolonged instability in Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy and come just ahead of the peak holiday tourist season.

Even if Yingluck dissolves parliament and calls fresh elections, Suthep said, he will "continue the fight

... because they can always come back to suck the blood of people, steal from people, disrespect the constitution and make us their slaves."

"If people are happy with elections and go home, I will remain here alone," he

day had suffered gunshot wounds, but it is not clear who shot them. The police say they have not used live rounds.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is "concerned" about the situation in Thailand and urges

restrained and proportionate," EU heads of mission in Thailand said in a statement.

The protesters, who are mostly middle-class Bangkok supporters of the opposition Democrat Party, accuse Yingluck of being

Still, he called on his supporters to attack and take over the Bangkok Metropolitan Police headquarters on Tuesday, saying the police were a lackey of Thaksin and Yingluck.

"We're going to gather all our forces and we're going to take over the Metropolitan Police Bureau and make it the people's," he said.

Monday's violence took place around key institutions -- the Government House, the Parliament and Metropolitan Police Bureau in the historic quarter of the capital. The area has some of Bangkok's main tourist attractions such as the Grand Palace, Wat Pho temple, the Bangkok zoo, and the backpacker area of Khao San Road. Most of Bangkok, a city of 10 million, has been unaffected. Analyst Thitinan Pongsudhirak told The Associated Press that while Suthep's demands may appear "bold and blatant," they go down well with the people ... who think that the electoral system can never be trusted and therefore they have to set up their own government and rewrite the rules."

The protesters' numbers have dwindled from a peak of 100,000-plus a week ago but hardcore groups have remained at the frontline, fighting running battles with the police.

In her news conference, Yingluck stuck a conciliatory tone, repeatedly pleading for negotiations, and implied she was willing to hold fresh elections if that helped.

"I am not against either resignation or dissolution of parliament if this solution will stop the protests," she said. □



**An anti-government protester throws tear gas back to riot police near the Government House in Bangkok, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Monday rejected the demands of anti-government protesters locked in street battles with police, saying what they want is unacceptable under the constitution.**

**Associated Press**

said.

Earlier Monday, protesters commandeered garbage trucks and bulldozers, and tried to ram concrete barriers at the Government House and other key offices. Police repelled them by firing tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets, as protesters shot back explosives from homemade rocket launchers.

At least three people were killed and more than 200 injured in the past three days of violence, which capped a week of massive street rallies that drew crowds of more than 100,000 at their peak. A Bangkok hospital confirmed that two of the people they treated Mon-

all sides to exercise "utmost restraint," his spokesman, Martin Nesirky, said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the U.S. was also encouraging restraint and political dialogue. She told reporters that violence and seizure of public or private property "are not acceptable means of resolving political differences."

The European Union said it was saddened by the violent escalation of previously peaceful demonstrations, and very concerned over occupation of public offices and intimidation of media. "We believe that the response of the Thai authorities has so far been

a proxy for her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. He was deposed in a 2006 military coup but remains central to Thailand's political crisis, and is a focal point for the protester's hatred.

The protesters say their goal is to uproot the political machine of Thaksin, who is accused of widespread corruption and abuse of power.

"Come and join the people to get rid of the Thaksin regime and we can work together to change Thailand into a pure and democratic country," said Suthep who has projected his fight as a non-violent campaign for democracy.



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## Israeli PM under fire for alleged pricey expenses

**TIA GOLDENBERG**  
**Associated Press**  
**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's penchant for scented candles is setting off a stink, with media and politicians accusing him Monday of extravagantly spending public money. According to an expense document obtained by a civil liberties group, Netanyahu spent \$1,700 on scented candles, \$23,300 on flower arrangements and \$31,600 on gardening at his official residence in Jerusalem, among other costs totaling about

\$909,000 in 2012. The group obtained the document following a freedom of information request. The criticism is the latest in a string of similar reproaches against Netanyahu, who is often accused by Israelis of leading a lavish lifestyle while failing to address the economic ills of the middle class. The report threatens to embarrass Netanyahu, whose government raised taxes and slashed services earlier this year to decrease a swelling budget deficit. Coupled with a rising cost of living, Israelis have for

years complained that they struggle to make ends meet. Just two years ago, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to protest the country's high cost of living. "When the prime minister presents such inflated and absurd amounts in the expense sheet to the nation, he can't look at his citizens in the eye and swear that there must be cuts to their welfare, health care, security and education," wrote Arye Aplatoni in the Maariv daily. Netanyahu, who is known to enjoy puffing on cigars



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, shares a word with Pope Francis during their meeting at the Vatican, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. Netanyahu is on a visit to Italy, which include a meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

Associated Press

## After boy mauled, Balkan animal cruelty in focus

**ALISON MUTLER**  
**Associated Press**  
**BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)** — A litter of puppies wrapped in a blanket and set on fire. A dog roaming the streets with its jaw hacked off. Cats found at the bottom of an apartment block, spines snapped. It's part of a catalog of cruelty in recent months that has gone barely noticed in Romania. The struggling EU country has seen a spate of brutal attacks against animals following the deadly mauling of a 4-year-old boy in August by one of Bucharest's tens of thousands of street dogs. Police and animal welfare officials say the attacks were fueled by relentless and "hysterical"



In this Sept. 8, 2013 file photo, Aurica Anghel, right, grandmother of Ionut Anghel, a 4-year old boy who was fatally mauled by stray dogs last August, after she failed to monitor him while in a park, holds his picture during a protest in Bucharest, Romania.

Associated Press

media coverage of the case. The Four Paws animal welfare group registered 15 cases of people savagely

attacking animals in the six weeks after the boy's death, compared to six cases of similar cruelty in the previous nine months. □

and sipping cognac, has been chided for his lifestyle in the past. Earlier this year, a TV station reported that Netanyahu spent \$127,000 in public funds for a special sleeping cabin on a five-hour flight to London. Netanyahu was forced to stop buying ice cream from his favorite Jerusalem parlor after an Israeli newspaper discovered his office was spending \$3,000 a year for the treat. In the new expense document, Netanyahu was also shown to spend \$11,800 on laundry and \$41,600 on catering at his official residence. Expenses for his vacation home in the upscale town of Caesarea, where he and his family stay on weekends, were also disclosed. The water bill there amounted to more than \$22,000 and the electrical bill hit \$7,390.

The Netanyahus have another private apartment in Jerusalem, where spending amounted to just over \$1,000. In a statement, the prime minister's office said the official residence is used throughout the year to host dignitaries and world leaders, as well as meetings with many participants. While media reports said his spending was roughly \$300,000 over budget, the statement said this year has seen a decrease in expenses at the official residence by 16 percent. The news made front pages and was the topic of radio talk shows throughout the day. A cartoon in the Yediot Ahronot daily showed Netanyahu and his wife Sara lighting lemon grass, vanilla and strawberry scented Hanukkah candles. □

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# Syria calls for help destroying toxic arsenal

EDITH M. LEDERER  
MIKE CORDER  
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

Syria's deputy foreign minister warned Monday that efforts to rid his country of chemical weapons could fail if the international community does not contribute money and equipment.

Faisal Mekdad told reporters at a meeting of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons his country needs armored vehicles and other resources to move chemicals out of Syria for destruction.

"Without these resources it will be difficult if not impossible for Syria and for all OPCW to implement the decisions," he said.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also said in a letter to the Security Council that the mission needs an "unprecedented effort" by the world.

The OPCW is aiming to destroy Syria's entire chemical weapons program by mid-2014.

It is the first time the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization has attempted such a disarmament effort in the midst of a civil war.

Syria only joined the organization late this year to ward off possible airstrikes by Washington, which blamed President Bashar Assad's regime for an Aug. 21 sarin attack on a Damascus suburb. Assad denies responsibility.

Dutch diplomat Sigrid Kaag told the meeting that key pieces of the complex puzzle

that makes up the international plan to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program are in place.

Norway and Denmark have offered merchant ships to help transport chemicals and the United States will provide a ship on which the most toxic chemicals can be destroyed at sea. Some three dozen private companies also have expressed an interest in destroying less toxic chemicals, which make up the bulk of the 1,300 metric tons of weapons and chemicals declared by Damascus.

But the key challenge to the ambitious timeline remains Syria's ongoing civil war. "Given the complexity of the mission and the unpredictable operating environment, many factors remain outside the control of the joint mission," Ban said. Kaag, who leads the joint United Nations-OPCW mission in Syria, said the highway linking Damascus and Homs was closed recently as she visited the port of Latakia in a helicopter. The highway, which has been the scene of a months-long government offensive against rebels, is a key artery to coastal ports.

"To get the material to port, it is necessary that roads are open and are safe and secure to use," Kaag said. Mekdad expressed optimism that Damascus could win the fight.

"We hope shortly we'll be in control of the entire road," he said. "These terrorists do not respect borders, or highways or United Nations



Dr. Faisal Mekdad of the Syrian Arab Republic, right, and fellow delegation members wait for the start of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. The world's chemical weapons watchdog is expected to discuss its ambitious plan to completely eradicate Syria's chemical weapons program by mid-2014.

Associated Press

or OPCW so we have to be very careful that's why we are asking for all these requirements to ensure a successful conclusion of the entire process."

While Syrian forces bear primary responsibility for security for the chemical disarmament mission, Kaag said she was reaching out to all sides — including rebel groups — in the conflict that is now in its third year. In his letter, which included a progress report on the mission, Ban said Syrian authorities, "are being encouraged to consider alternative options to ensure the safety and security of inland transportation for the chemical material."

He said that as of Nov. 25, a trust fund set up by the

OPCW to fund the mission held 10.8 million euros (\$14.6 million) and the U.N. trust found a further \$2 million from the U.S. and pledges of 250,000 euros (\$338,000) each from Denmark and Luxembourg. Other nations have made "voluntary in-kind contributions."

They can include flights, the use of bases and equipment.

Packaging materials that will be used when toxic chemicals are transported have already started to arrive in Lebanon and the mission has organized a course to train Syrian personnel in preparing the chemicals to be moved out of the country by sea.

According to Ban's letter,

Syria amended its initial declaration to the OPCW to increase the total amount of declared munitions to approximately 1,260 items. It also says that in its initial declaration on Oct. 23, Syria declared "possession of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities, abandoned chemical weapons, riot control agents, and other chemical weapons-related facilities and chemical industry facilities. □"



# Honduras will recount tallies in presidential vote

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)**— Honduras' electoral court will recount vote tally sheets from the Nov. 24 the presidential election after receiving a fraud complaint from second-place candidate Xiomara Castro, court president David Matamoros said Monday. Matamoros said the recount might begin sometime Monday.

Castro filed a complaint Monday claiming fraud in the election, which she lost to governing party candidate Juan Orlando Hernandez. The court's official results gave Hernandez 37 percent of the votes to Castro's 29 percent.

Castro, 54, and her husband, former President Manuel Zelaya, claimed victory and have said they won't accept the official count. Without presenting any evidence, she claims tally sheets were altered, the voter registry included people who are dead or out of the country, and polling stations were inadequately monitored.

Zelaya was ousted in a 2009 coup that has left Honduras politically unstable, and poverty and violence have worsened over the last four years under outgoing President Porfirio Lobo. Castro's candidacy was viewed as Zelaya's attempt to make a political comeback after being ousted with six months left in his term.

The couple led a peaceful march of several thousand people Sunday protesting the official results.

Castro originally asked for a recount of all ballots, but her formal complaint only sought a recount of the vote tally sheets compiled at each polling station.

Hernandez has said his victory is legitimate and he



Presidential candidate Xiomara Castro, left, and her husband, Manuel Zelaya, ride on the roof of a car with a coffin containing the body of a supporter that was killed a day earlier by alleged criminals during a protest march in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Sunday Dec. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

won't negotiate. He hasn't commented directly on the fraud allegations.

The presidential vote was monitored by missions from the European Union and Organization of American States, which concluded that the election process was transparent despite irregularities.

They agreed there was a faulty system for issuing poll workers' credentials, and they said people who were either dead or who left

Honduras long ago could account for up to 30 percent of registered voters.

The EU observation team said Monday that it could not comment on whether

the irregularities were enough to change the results. □

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# Venezuelan oil diplomacy curbed by economic crisis

**JOSHUA GOODMAN**

**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela**

**(AP)** — The late President Hugo Chavez's dream of leveraging Venezuela's oil wealth to spread revolution across Latin America is crumbling under the weight of an economic crisis that is forcing his hand-picked successor to cut back on generous foreign aid.

Signs of the country's waning influence are becoming more apparent. In early November, Guatemala withdrew from the Petrocaribe oil alliance launched by Chavez, saying it didn't receive the ultra-low financing rates it had been promised by Venezuela when it first sought to join the 18-nation pact in 2008. Also in recent weeks, representatives of Brazil and Colombia have held meetings with their Venezuelan counterparts to collect overdue payment for food, manufactured goods and other imports.

While Venezuela has fallen behind on payments before, the latest cash crunch is more severe, and the economic outlook more uncertain, than any time in 15 years of socialist rule.

The reason is a dependence on oil, which accounts for 95 percent of exports. Although Venezuela sits atop the world's largest reserves, production has steadily declined in recent years. Global prices for crude are also lower as hydraulic fracturing technology boosts supplies in the U.S. at a time that Europe's economic woes and weaker growth in China limit global demand.

The result is a hemorrhaging of Venezuela's foreign currency reserves, which are down 27 percent this year, according to the country's central bank.

To meet its obligations, the government is quietly scaling back the subsidies, investments and aid programs that were the cornerstone of Chavez's plan to curb the influence of the U.S. "empire" in Latin America and that total an



**In this Jan 19, 2006 file photo, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, center, embraces Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, left, and Argentina's President Nestor Kirchner, in Brasilia, Brazil. The days of geopolitical chest thumping, best captured when Chavez in 2006 laid out plans to build a pipeline stretching across South America, are a fast-fading memory.**

**Associated Press**



**In this June 29, 2013 file photo, under a portrait of the late Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, left, talks with Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega during the 8th Petrocaribe Summit in Managua, Nicaragua.**

**Associated Press**

estimated \$100 billion since 1999.

While President Nicolas Maduro's government has yet to acknowledge the shift toward austerity, central bank data show that foreign trade credits, consisting mainly of loans and subsidies under Petrocaribe, fell to \$1.7 billion in the first nine months of this year, compared with more than triple that amount for the same period last year. "It's a lot easier to reduce foreign aid than cut wages or fire workers," said Francisco Rodriguez, an economist in New York for Bank of America-Merrill Lynch.

The country most hurt by the pullback is Nicaragua, which receives \$600 million in annual transfers from Caracas. Starting next year, former guerrilla lead-

er Daniel Ortega's government will begin funding monthly \$30 "socialist" cash transfers to poor Nicaraguans that until now have been paid for by Venezuela. Construction of Central America's largest oil refinery has also stalled as Venezuelan investment has dried up.

Analysts said Venezuelans are now feeling the financial stresses that worsened seven months ago, after Maduro defeated Gov. Henrique Capriles by a razor-thin margin to succeed Chavez following his death from cancer. Faced with growing spending demands spurred by 54 percent inflation, the state agency that administers the nation's dollars has been restricting access to hard currency to pay

suppliers overseas. That's pushed the value of the dollar in the black market to 10 times its official rate and led to record shortages of everything from toilet paper to cooking oil.

Maduro blames it on his opponents in Venezuela and the U.S., saying they're conspiring to sabotage the economy.

Trading partners grew more concerned after the

ness in the Colon Free Zone adjacent to the Panama Canal is down about 10 percent this year, due to declining Venezuelan purchases, said Severo Sousa, who represents exporters in talks with the Venezuelan government.

Sousa estimates Venezuela owes Panamanian companies about \$1 billion, of which only 10 percent has been recovered.

"The results of talks have been very limited," said Sousa.

It's not just less economic muscle that is freezing Venezuela's outreach, said Carlos Romero, an international relations expert at the Central University of Venezuela. Maduro's inability to replicate Chavez's charisma and a rapprochement with the West by Iran and Syria, whose previous hard-line stance Chavez embraced, are undermining the politics of confrontation that the late Venezuelan leader relished, Romero said.

Interventionist policies, like Maduro's seizure of appliance stores last month, are also on the decline in much of Latin America. Even communist Cuba, its staunchest ally, is opening



**In this May 15, 2013 file photo, a customer leaves a private super market with her purchases in Caracas, Venezuela.**

**Associated Press**

government proposed paying for imports with bonds issued by state-run oil company PDVSA. In October, Brazilian Trade Minister Fernando Pimentel met with Maduro to discuss the unpaid bills, according to a Brazilian official who insisted on speaking anonymously because the talks were private.

The delays pose a much bigger risk for smaller Panama and Colombia. Busi-

up to more private investment.

"Maduro's conduct came as a big surprise to activists, academics and many in the international media who had sympathized with Chavez and were expecting moderation," Romero said. "There's greater scrutiny of his human rights record and economic policies, and that has repercussions on Venezuela's international reputation." □



# “Aruba helps the Philippines”



The fundraising event organized by Ami Henriquez-Mendez, the honorary Consul General of the Philippine Consulate of Aruba, called “Aruba helps the Philippines” was a great

success. Right in front of the Talk of the town hotel where the brand new Linear Park starts, the place was packed with Arubans and Philippines of all ages. The



crowd was dancing along and as the picture shows, like on a real rock concert, heads were shaking! The following bands put up an amazing show: Audio-hazard, Banzaai, Earplugs, Legend, Primo Bandits, So What and Baranca. And we like to thank them all for the free concert. The crowd had a blast. This fundraising was organized to help the victims & their families during the earthquake & typhoon disaster that claimed 6000



registered deaths & a million homeless inhabitants in the Philippines 3 weeks ago. There was plenty of food / desserts for sale, 7 amazing Rock Bands playing live, performances of local & Filipino artists, dances & other presentation and local products being sold like organic products, hot sauces, flip flops and a new local t-shirt brand called: “Area 297 Kustom Apparel”. The exact amount collected for the people in need

is not known as yet and donations are still welcome at CMB # 62558205 or Banco di Caribe # 82272501 under the name “Aruba helps the Philippines” Every little bit helps! This event was brought to reality with the help of the proud sponsors: DOW, Setar, Selimar, Total Services, the local Press, Radio Stations & TV, Western Union, Eva’s Arubiana, Tropical Bottling, Andina Ice, Hopi Bon Grill and “Area 297”, for the extra efforts to make this event great. □



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# Romantic Sunset Wedding for Michael & Jeff



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**Palm Beach** -- Michael & Jeff from Toledo, Ohio, who have known each other since the Millennium, exchanged vows at sunset at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. Wedding guests were treated to pre-ceremony cocktails with unforgettable Tina Turner's music videos as backdrop. Then a local reverend officiated over the blessing which was followed by an intimate dinner, toes in the sand. After the cutting of the two-tier cake, Michael & Jeff release flying sky lanterns into the sparkling heavens over Palm Beach, for an extra measure of good luck and

happiness. The just-wed couple enjoyed a blanket of love made off friends coming in from as far as New Orleans. Ring bearers Lulu and Spike, two tiny Yorkshire Terriers, she in a custom pink gown and he in a Tommy Bahamas shirt, enjoyed the festivities as much as the two-legged crowd. Michael & Jeff have been coming to Aruba on vacation for the past thirteen years, same time each year, Thanksgiving Week. This year, their visit is extra special, as they invited their local friends to attend their beautiful, much-anticipated wedding celebration, on Saturday. □

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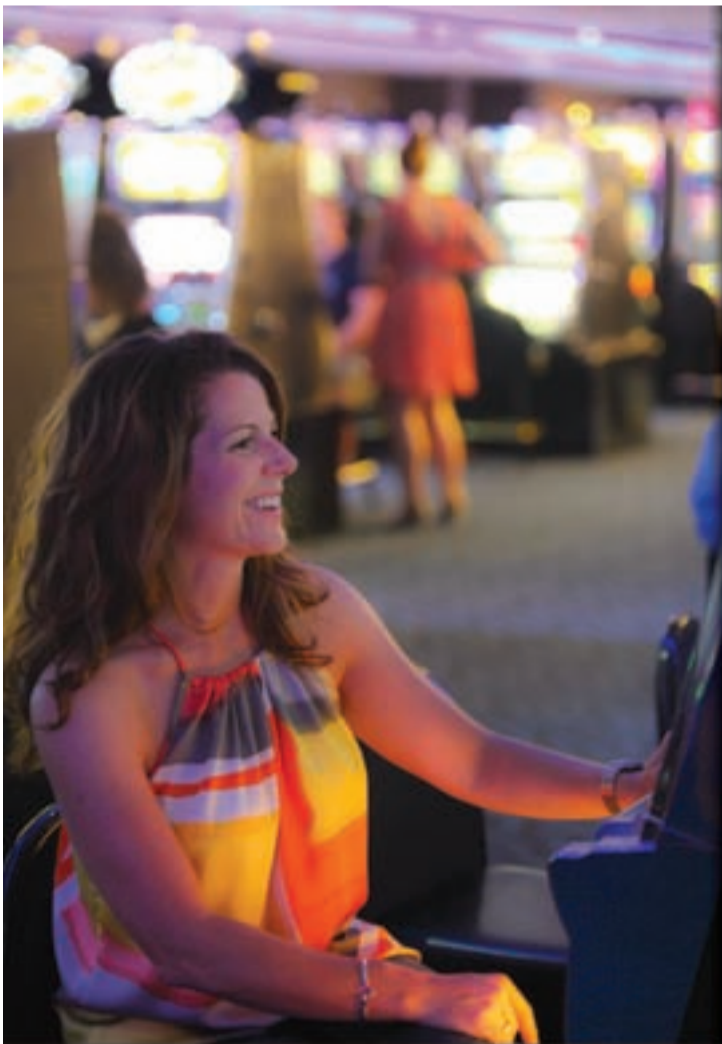
**PALM BEACH** - Fresher than Fresh, is what you are served in the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located at De Palm Pier, between the RIU Palace Hotel and The Raddison Hotel. Mondays will no longer be just another Monday. No! It's Crazy Fish Monday at Bugaloe! Beautiful colorful platter of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables is what you will be served from Chef Hernandez' kitchen every Mon-

day. Whether choosing Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m.

Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's daily Happy Hour from 5 till 6 p.m. Re-



servations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! □



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**The Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — David West scored 14 of his 24 points in the third quarter and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Paul George had 27 points as the league-leading Indiana Pacers improved their best start in club history to 16-1 with a 105-100 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday. Roy Hibbert added 19 points to the Pacers' seventh straight win. NBA Capsules Jamal Crawford led the Clippers with 20 points. Chris Paul had 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Blake Griffin scored 16 and pulled down 12 rebounds — equaling teammate DeAndre Jordan's total.

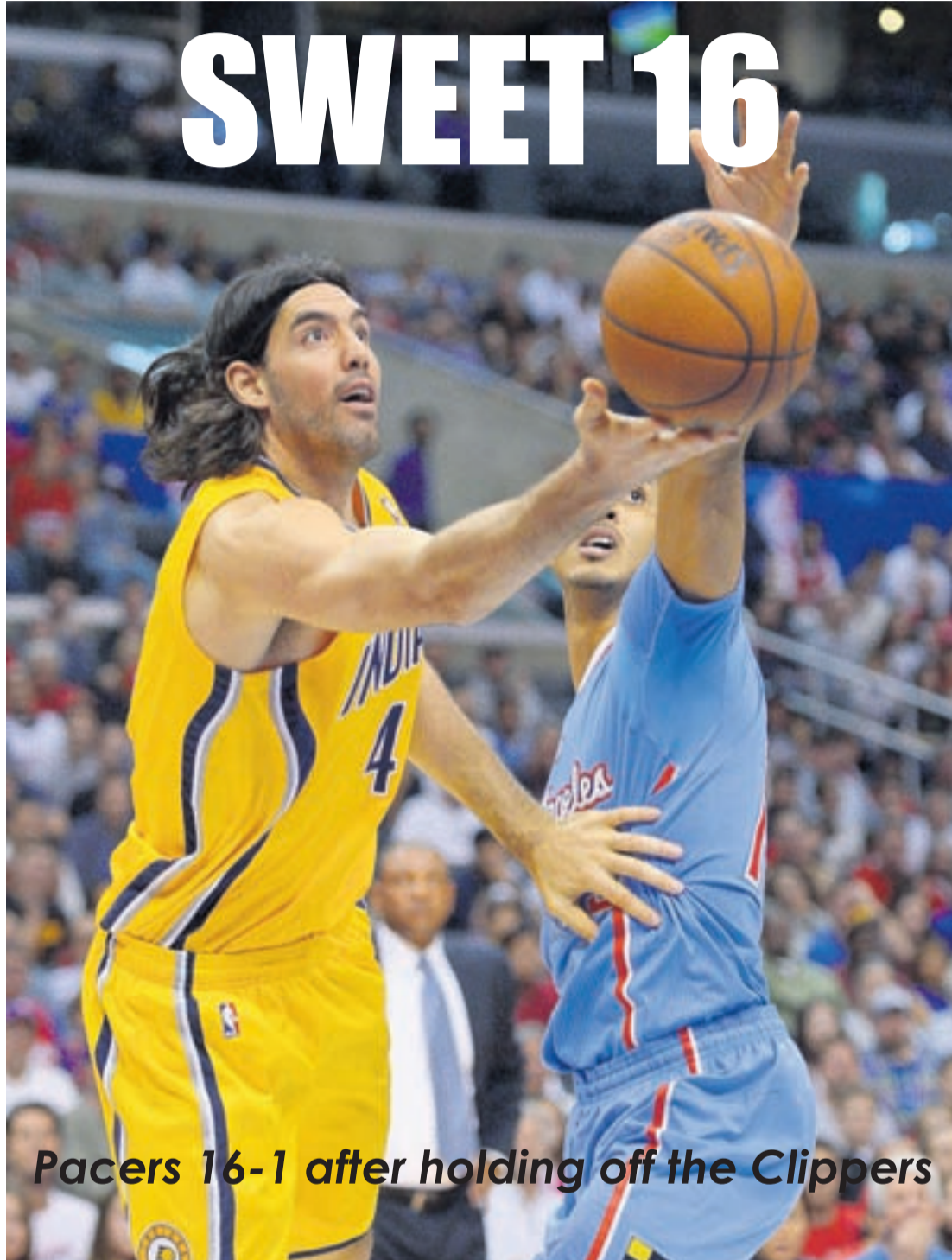
The defending Pacific Division champion Clippers played their first game since finding out that J.J. Redick will be sidelined six to eight weeks because of a broken bone in his shooting hand and a ligament tear in his right elbow.

HEAT 99, BOBCATS 98

**MIAMI (AP)** — Chris Bosh scored 13 straight points for Miami in the final minutes, including a trio of 3-pointers that capped a late rally as the Heat found a way to beat Charlotte to extend its winning streak to 10 games.

Bosh's three 3s came in a 79-second span, the last of them putting Miami up 93-91 with 1:20 left.

LeBron James led the Heat with 26 points, Bosh



**Pacers 16-1 after holding off the Clippers**

Indiana Pacers forward Luis Scola, left, of Argentina, puts up a shot as Los Angeles Clippers center Ryan Hollins defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

finished with 22, Dwyane Wade scored 17 and Mario Chalmers added 12 for Miami, which has beaten the Bobcats 14 straight times. Kemba Walker scored 27 points for the Bobcats, who had led the entire second half until Bosh's barrage. Gerald Henderson scored 17, and Al Jefferson finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte.

THUNDER 113, TIMBERWOLVES 103

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Kevin Durant recorded his first triple-double of the season with 32 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists as Oklahoma City rallied for yet another fourth-quarter win, beating Minnesota.

Oklahoma City extended its winning streak to seven games, tops in the Western Conference, and moved to 9-0 on the season at home. It's the franchise's longest home winning streak to open a season since the 2004-05 campaign, when the team played in Seattle.

Kevin Martin, in his return to Oklahoma City after joining Minnesota during the offseason, led the Timberwolves with 24 points, while Nikola Pekovic had 22 points and 10 rebounds. The Thunder have beaten Minnesota eight straight times at home, dating to the 2008-09 season, the franchise's first in Oklahoma City.

Continued on Page 21

## NFL: Officials erred at end of Sunday night game

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** - Redskins coach Mike Shanahan spoke Monday with the NFL's director of officiating after the league said Sunday night's crew made an error on Washington's final drive.

The league said officials should have stopped play and eliminated confusion

about the down and distance at the end of the Giants' 24-17 victory at Washington. "I talked to Dean earlier today, he gave me a call and just went over the scenario," Shanahan said, referring to Dean Blandino, who oversees NFL officiating. "Obviously they made a mistake and you live with it." With New York leading

by seven points just after the two-minute warning, a catch by the Redskins' Pierre Garcon on second-and-5 was spotted short of a first down at the Washington 45. Referee Jeff Triplett signaled third down. But the head linesman, with the Redskins in a hurry-up offense, incorrectly motioned for the crew to advance the

chains, which caused the down boxes to read first down. "In this situation where there is obvious confusion as to the status of the down, that play should have been stopped prior to third down and the correct down communicated to both clubs," Blandino said Monday in a statement. "This should have occurred regardless of the fact

that Washington had no timeouts and it was inside two minutes." Only the referee can rule and signal a first down. The official nearest to the down markers and chain crew, the head linesman, is required to wait for that first-down signal from the referee before moving the chains. That did not happen at FedEx Field. □



# Jesse Owens' Olympic medal up for auction

**RAQUEL MARIA DILLON**  
**Associated Press**  
**LAGUNA NIGUEL, California (AP)** — One of the four Olympic gold medals won by track and field star Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Games is up for sale in an online auction that runs through Dec. 7. The medal — being auctioned online — recalls both the Nazi propaganda myths that Owens busted with his world record-setting 100-yard dash, and the American segregation that he came home to when he returned to the U.S. after the Games, which Adolf Hitler orchestrated to showcase his ideas of Aryan supremacy. "Almost singlehandedly, Owens obliterated Hitler's plans," SCP Auctions partner Dan Imler said. "You've got an African American, son of a sharecropper, grandson of slaves who overcame these incredible

circumstances and delivered a performance for the ages." The auction began Nov. 20 and closes Saturday. As of Monday, it had received 15 bids, with the highest at nearly \$209,000, Imler said in an email. "We expect a lot of bidding activity on the final day of the auction, which is typical," he said. Owens won gold in the 100- and 200-meters, the 400 relay and the long jump. But when he returned from the Berlin Games, he struggled to provide for his family. His job options were limited by segregation and because he decided to return home instead of going on tour with the U.S. Olympic Team, he was stripped of his amateur athletic status. "When they came back, the U.S. was just as it was when he left — segregated. Even though he came back an Olympic hero, he wasn't offered opportuni-

ties that Olympic heroes of today are offered," said his daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin, 74, of Chicago. "We lived well, a middle class life. We didn't want for much. But like many black men of that era, he struggled to provide for his family." Owens gave one of his four Olympic gold medals to dancer and movie star Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, another supremely talented African-American whose career was hemmed in by limited roles for black men, Imler said. Robinson befriended Owens after the athlete return from the Olympics. "They formed a friendship and also a professional relationship. Bojangles helped Owens get work in the entertainment field," Imler said. "Owens gave him this medal out of gratitude and as a token of their friendship."



This Nov. 19, 2013 photo shows track and field star Jesse Owens' gold medal is displayed from his 1936 Olympics win at the SCP Auctions in Laguna Nigel, Calif.

Associated Press

Owens worked for a short time as a band leader but eventually returned to his hometown of Cleveland where he worked for the parks department and eventually found his way into public speaking, his daughter said. "The black community revered him for what he had accomplished," she said.

"Had it been an even playing field, my father and Bojangles would have been super-stars." The medal comes from the estate of Robinson's widow. The Robinson family declined to comment but Imler said they plan to use the proceeds to pay college tuition and contribute to charity. □

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# Kesler nets 2; Canucks edge Hurricanes 3-2

The Associated Press

**RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP)** — Ryan Kesler scored two goals to lead the Vancouver Canucks to a 3-2 win over the Carolina Hurricanes on Sunday.

NHL Capsules

Tom Sestito also scored for the Canucks, and Jason Garrison had two assists. Backup goalie Eddie Lack made 29 saves to help Vancouver earn its third win in 11 games.

Kesler's second goal capped a stretch in which the teams combined to score three goals in 37 seconds.

Jordan Staal and Nathan Gerbe scored 10 seconds apart for Carolina in the opening 49 seconds of the second period. Kesler answered 27 seconds later to

make it 3-2.

Carolina's Cam Ward made 27 saves.

The Hurricanes, who failed on six power-play chances against the NHL's best penalty-killing unit, have lost six of eight.

**RED WINGS 4, SENATORS 2 OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Daniel Alfredsson scored an empty-net goal and added an assist in his return to Ottawa as Detroit beat the host Senators.

Alfredsson, the former long-time captain of the Senators, wasn't primarily responsible for Ottawa's second straight loss and fourth consecutive at home, but he helped contribute to the continuation of his ex-team's woes.

Like so many times in their previous 27 games in the



Carolina Hurricanes' Jay Harrison (44) and Nathan Gerbe (14) defend as Vancouver Canucks' Ryan Kesler, right, shoots and scores as Chris Higgins (20) and Jannik Hansen, center, defend during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

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post-Alfredsson era, something was missing for the Senators (10-13-4). Defensive breakdowns led to goals, and there wasn't enough offense to compensate.

Drew Miller scored twice, Johan Franzen added a goal, and Jonas Gustavsson made 29 saves for Detroit.

Clarke MacArthur and Mika Zibanejad had goals for Ottawa, which won the first two meetings between the teams this season in Detroit. Robin Lehner took the loss. The Red Wings, who won their fourth straight, haven't lost since the Senators beat them on Nov. 23.

**OILERS 3, STARS 2, SO DALLAS (AP)** — Jordan Eberle and David Perron scored in the shootout, and Devan Dubnyk come on in relief of injured goalie Ilya Bryzgalov to help Edmonton earn a win over Dallas. Dubnyk stopped two of three shots in the tiebreak-

er. Dallas' Kari Lehtonen failed to make a save in the shootout.

Edmonton's Ales Hemsky scored 5 seconds before the second period ended, and Andrew Ference fired in a slap shot with 5:07 remaining in regulation to tie it again.

Ryan Garbutt scored two goals, including a short-handed tally that gave Dallas a 1-0 lead in the second period. He also put the Stars ahead in the third.

Garbutt nearly had a hat trick but he was stopped on a breakaway attempt by Bryzgalov with 3:41 left in the second. Garbutt collided with Bryzgalov, who left with an upper-body injury and didn't return.

Bryzgalov, who made 28 saves, trailed 1-0 when he came out.

In other games it was Edmonton 3, Dallas 2, SO; Vancouver 3, Carolina 2; and Detroit 4, Ottawa 2. □



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## NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 18

PELICANS 103, KNICKS 99  
NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Anderson made seven 3-pointers and scored 31 points as New Orleans overcame the loss of Anthony Davis to a broken left hand to beat New York.

Tyreke Evans added 24 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter, as the Pelicans sent the Knicks to their ninth straight loss overall and seventh in a row at home.

Davis had seven points and four rebounds in the first quarter before leaving with what the Pelicans said was a non-displaced fracture in his left hand. The team said a timetable for his return has not been determined.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 23 points and rookie Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 for the Knicks, who haven't won at home since beating Milwaukee on Oct. 30 in their season opener.

WARRIORS 115, KINGS 113  
SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Stephen Curry made two free throws with 8.6 seconds left and had 12 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter, helping Golden State beat Sacramento.

Curry made five 3-pointers and also added 10 assists for the Warriors, who had lost two straight and five of six.

Klay Thompson connected on a career-high eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points for Golden State. Harrison Barnes and David Lee had 11 points for the Warriors, who ended a four-game road trip with a 2-2 record.

In foul trouble throughout, DeMarcus Cousins had 24 points in just over 20 minutes. Marcus Thornton scored all of his 21 points

in the second half for the Kings, who have dropped four straight and are now 3-7 at home.

TRAIL BLAZERS 114, LAKERS 108

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and nine rebounds as Portland blew most of a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter before holding on to beat Los Angeles for its 12th victory in 13 games.

Damian Lillard had 26 points and nine assists, and Wesley Matthews scored 17 points for the Blazers, whose 11-game winning streak ended four days earlier in Phoenix.

Portland returned from its holiday break with its first road victory over the Lakers in seven tries since April 11, 2010, but only after the undermanned Lakers rallied within one point in a harrowing fourth quarter.

Xavier Henry scored 27 points and Jodie Meeks added 20 for the Lakers, who had won five of six to climb above .500 for the first time this season.

PISTONS 115, 76ERS 100

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Andre Drummond had 31 points and 19 rebounds as Detroit beat Philadelphia.

Drummond was limited to 34 minutes, but he still became the first player to have at least 31 points, 19 rebounds and six steals in a game since Hakeem Olajuwon in 1990. He set career highs in all three categories, two days after Maurice Cheeks left him on the bench for the last 21 minutes of Detroit's loss to the Lakers.

Brandon Jennings and Josh Smith added 20 points each for the Pistons, while Thaddeus Young had 24 for Philadelphia before fouling

out late in the game.

NUGGETS 112, RAPTORS 98

TORONTO (AP) — Nate Robinson scored 23 points off the bench as Denver beat Toronto for its sixth straight victory.

The diminutive guard hit five 3-pointers, including back-to-back baskets with just over two minutes to go, as the Nuggets pulled away.

Rudy Gay led the Raptors with 23 points, while Jonas Valanciunas added 18. DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry each had 17. It was Toronto's third straight loss. Denver's bench scoring was the difference. The Nuggets' reserves outscored their Raptors counterparts 72-16.

In other NBA games it was Denver 112, Toronto 98; Indiana 105, L.A. Clippers 100; Detroit 115, Philadelphia 100; Golden State 115, Sacramento 113; Miami 99, Charlotte 98; Oklahoma City 113, Minnesota 103; New Orleans 103, New York 99; and Portland 114, L.A. Lakers 108. □



New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony, left, drives up against New Orleans Pelicans forward Al-Farouq Aminu in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013. Anthony scored only 23 points as the Pelicans defeated the Knicks 103-99, sending New York to the team's ninth straight loss.

## Nets' Pierce has broken hand, out 2-4 weeks

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Pierce will be out two to four weeks with a broken bone in his right hand, the biggest loss yet for the injury-plagued Brooklyn Nets. The team said Monday that Pierce had been diagnosed with a non-displaced fracture of the third metacarpal of his right, shooting hand. He was hurt Friday in the first half of a loss at Houston. □



# Vonn putting off knee surgery for hope of comeback

**PAT GRAHAM**  
AP Sports Writer

**VAIL, Colorado (AP)** — Lindsey Vonn is delaying further surgery on her right knee for as long as possible in hopes of skiing at the Sochi Olympics.

Vonn partially tore one of her reconstructed knee ligaments during a crash in training two weeks ago at Copper Mountain.

She is seeing if she can ski without another operation because that would all but end any chance of defending her Olympic downhill title in February.

Vonn says she likely would be proceeding in the same way even if this weren't an Olympic season.

"I probably would've done what I'm doing right now, test it out," Vonn said after a training session at Vail on Sunday. "If I felt like it was possible to keep skiing, I probably would've. Either way, at the end of the season, I have to reconstruct the ACL.

"So it's kind of like, might as



Lindsey Vonn slows to a stop after a training run down a Super-G course, Friday, Nov. 29, 2013, in Vail, Colo.

Associated Press

well see how long it holds up. Not a lot of options. In the end, surgery is going to have to happen."

On a chilly morning, Vonn took two warmup runs fol-

lowed by three aggressive passes through the super-G course in her race suit, hugging the corners tight and looking quite fast. Afterward, she said her surgi-

cally repaired knee felt "really good."

So much so that Vonn will travel to Lake Louise, Alberta, this week for downhill training on a course she usually dominates. If training goes well, she will race for the first time since tearing ligaments in her right knee during a high-speed accident at the world championships in February. "Just trying to ski solid," she said. "I'm not trying to do race runs. I'm trying to build into it.

Not push it too hard. But I was still be able to be aggressive and confident in what I'm doing so that when I get up to Lake Louise I can hopefully have a good feeling right away."

As she rehabbed the knee over the offseason, Vonn was anticipating a return for the nearby Beaver Creek races this weekend. She was on pace, too, before her wipeout at the speed center in Copper Mountain in which she partially tore her ACL.

Vonn said it's been difficult to watch Lara Gut of Switzerland win the downhill and super-G races on a new course Vonn was very much look forward to trying out before the 2015 world championships.

"Frustrating to miss the race," Vonn said. "Definitely with this current situation, there was no way I could've skied that bumpy, steep course.

I know it was the right decision. That gives me a peace of mind.

I'm trying to look forward to Lake Louise and cheer for my team."

Asked if she planned to attend the giant slalom race on Sunday, Vonn said, "Oh, no.

"My family is leaving so I'm spending a couple of extra hours with my family. Then, I'm going to pack up and get ready for Lake Louise." Vonn needs three wins to match Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell's record of 62 victories in World Cup races. □

# Tigers trade RHP Fister to Nationals for 3 players



In this Sept. 19, 2013, file photo, Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Doug Fister throws against the Seattle Mariners during a baseball game in Detroit. The Tigers have traded Fister to the Washington Nationals for three players announced Monday, Dec. 2.

Associated Press

By **LARRY LAGE**  
AP Sports Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** -- The Detroit Tigers traded right-hander Doug Fister to the Washington Nationals for three players Monday night, opening

a spot in their rotation and perhaps saving some money to keep Max Scherzer beyond next season.

Detroit received infielder Steve Lombardozzi, minor league lefty Robbie Ray

and reliever Ian Krol for Fister, a 14-game winner for the AL Central champions.

"We are excited to be adding three solid players to the organization," Tigers president and general

manager Dave Dombrowski said in a statement. "Robbie is a premium pitching prospect, Ian adds a quality left-handed young arm for the bullpen and Steve provides our ballclub with versatility in several roles as a switch-hitting utility man. "This affords us the opportunity to move the left-handed arm of Drew Smyly into the starting rotation where we are confident he will do well," the statement said.

It also might help the franchise afford to give Scherzer, the AL Cy Young Award winner, a new contract before he becomes a free agent following the 2014 season. Detroit has had a busy offseason so far.

FILE - In this March 6, 2013, file photo, Washington Nationals' Steve Lombardozzi chases down a sing ...

The Tigers traded first baseman Prince Fielder and his \$214 million contract two weeks ago to the Texas Rangers in part to potentially save more than \$75 million, giving them even more financial flexibility.

They also allowed shortstop Jhonny Peralta to leave as a free agent for St. Louis.

Fister is going from one stacked rotation to another. He will likely replace Dan Haren in the rotation and join Stephen Strasburg, Jordan Zimmermann and Gio Gonzalez.

The 29-year-old Fister was 14-9 with a 3.67 ERA last season and was 32-20 in two-plus seasons in Detroit, which acquired him in a trade from the Seattle Mariners. He struck out an American League-record nine batters in a row against the Kansas City Royals late in the 2012 season.

The 6-foot-8 Fister fared well in the postseason, even when he was hit in the head by a line drive. He shook off the scary moment in Game 2 of the 2012 World Series against San Francisco and took a shut-out bid into the seventh inning in what ended up being a 2-0 loss to the Giants. Over three postseasons with the Tigers, he had a 2.98 ERA in seven starts and a relief appearance. □

# Amazon.com sees delivery drones as future

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Amazon.com is working on a way to get customers their goods in 30 minutes or less — by drone.

The world's largest e-commerce company said it's working on the so-called Prime Air unmanned aircraft project in its research and development labs. But Amazon says it will take years to advance the technology and for the Federal Aviation Administration to create the necessary rules and regulations.

The project was first reported Sunday by CBS' "60 Minutes" TV newsmagazine.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos said in a primetime interview that while the octocopters look like something out of science fiction, there's no reason they can't be used as delivery vehicles.

Bezos said the drones can carry packages that weigh up to five pounds (2.3 kilograms), which covers about 86 percent of the items Amazon delivers. The current generation of drones the company is test-



This undated image provided by Amazon.com shows the so-called Prime Air unmanned aircraft project that Amazon is working on in its research and development labs.

Associated Press

ing has a range of about 10 miles (16 kilometers), which Bezos noted could cover a significant portion of the population in urban areas. While it's tough to say exactly how long it could take the project to get off the ground, Bezos told "60 Minutes" that he thinks it could happen in four or five years.

One of the biggest promises for civilian drone use has

been in agriculture.

The unmanned aircraft can fly over large fields and search out bugs, rodents and other animals that might harm crops. Then, thanks to GPS, another drone could come back and spread pesticide on that small quadrant of the field.

Agriculture is also seen as the most-promising use because of the industry's

largely unpopulated, wide open spaces. Delivering Amazon packages in midtown Manhattan will be much trickier.

Besides regulatory approval, Amazon's biggest challenge will be to develop a collision avoidance system, said Darryl Jenkins, a consultant who has given up on the commercial airline industry and now focuses on drones.

Who is to blame, Jenkins asked, if the drone hits a bird, crashes into a building? Who is going to insure the deliveries?

There are also technical questions.

Who will recharge the drone batteries? How many deliveries can the machines make before needing service?

"Jeff Bezos might be the single person in the universe who could make something like this happen," Jenkins said. "For what it worth, this is a guy who's totally changed retailing."

The biggest losers could be package delivery services like the U.S. Postal Service, FedEx and UPS.

FedEx spokesman Jess Bunn said in an email: "While we can't speculate about this particular technology, I can say that making every customer experience outstanding is our priority, and anything we do from a technology standpoint will be with that in mind."

Amazon's stock dipped \$1.98, or less than one percent, to \$391.64 in Monday morning's trading. □

## BlackBerry head says company is 'very much alive'

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — BlackBerry's interim chief executive said Monday reports of the death of the company "are greatly exaggerated." Former Sybase CEO John Chen said in a letter to customers that BlackBerry is returning to its roots, refocusing on delivering devices and services to business users.

Chen was brought in as the interim chief executive and executive chair after talks to sell the company collapsed last month.

He said in the letter that the company is aware that "BlackBerry is not for everyone."

BlackBerry quickly lost dominance as the leading smartphone maker after

the 2007 launch of Apple's touchscreen iPhone.

Chen notes that competitors are circling but that BlackBerry is "very much alive, thank you."

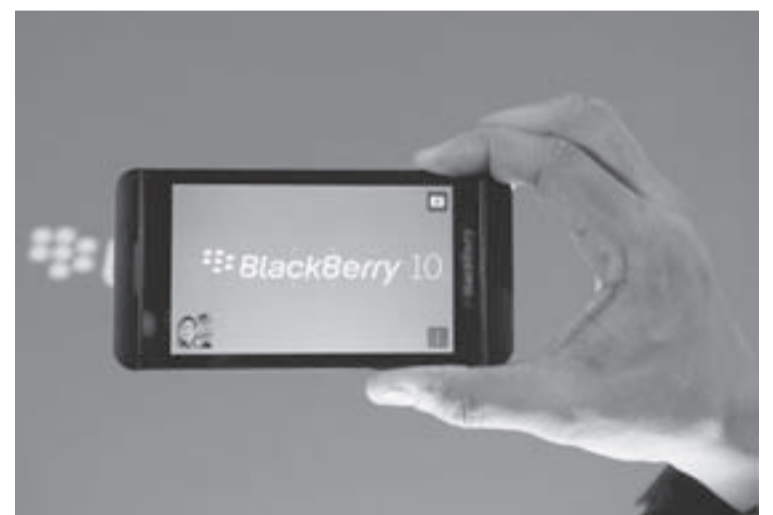
Chen said BlackBerry has substantial cash and said he'll refocus the company on four areas, including the handset business. Chen put more emphasis on BlackBerry's mobile device management business, which allows IT departments to manage different devices connected to their corporate networks. He also emphasized BlackBerry's popular BlackBerry Messenger application. And he mentioned embedded QNX software systems, which are used in-vehicle infotainment systems and industrial machines.

BGC analyst Colin Gillis said a letter meant to reassure customers is needed. The much-hyped BlackBerry 10 system, its latest phones, flopped. The company disclosed in September that it would book nearly a billion dollars in losses related to unsold phones and the company announced last month it was no longer for sale.

"They are being targeted pretty heavily. Their customers are up for grabs," Gillis said.

Focusing on business users is probably the only move BlackBerry has left, Gillis said.

"It's a much smaller business. This is the niche player. You can build phones for those people in that niche. You can have a de-



In this Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013, file photo, Arun Kumar, a senior product manager for BlackBerry, shows off the new BlackBerry Z10 during the global launch of the company's new smartphones in Toronto.

Associated Press

cent little business," Gillis said. "Enterprise customers who like keyboards. There's not really a good keyboard device out there. Some people like keyboards. I personally don't love typing on glass."

Gillis said he expects Chen to name himself CEO soon

because he's not acting like an interim CEO. "He's signing all this stuff as CEO," Gillis said.

Shares of BlackBerry rose 4 cents to \$6.37 in afternoon trading on the Nasdaq.

The decline of the BlackBerry has come shockingly fast. □

# Americans click for deals on Cyber Monday

**MAE ANDERSON**  
AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Power up and shop.

Millions of Americans took advantage of online deals ranging from free shipping to hundreds of dollars off electronics and half-price clothing Monday, which was expected to be the busiest online shopping day of the year. The spending surge on so-called Cyber Monday came after a disappointing holiday weekend in stores. And it showed that Americans are increasingly comfortable buying items on tablets and smartphones.

Early results showed online shopping was up 18.7 percent compared with the same time last year, according to figures by IBM Benchmark.

Mobile traffic, which includes smartphones and tablets, accounted for 30 percent of all online traffic. The National Retail Federation, a trade group, predicts more than 131 million people will shop online Monday, up about 2 percent from last year. Meanwhile, UPS expects to pick up more than 32 million packages on Monday, about a million more than Cyber Monday last year. And research firm comScore expects Cyber Monday sales of \$2 billion, up from about \$1.47 billion last year. Online sales account for about 10 percent of total holiday spending, which is expected to grow about 3.9 percent to \$602.1 billion for the months of November and December.



Joel Anderson, president and CEO of Walmart.com, said he anticipates

In this Monday, Nov. 26, 2012, file photo, packages are ready to ship move along a conveyor belt at the Amazon.com 1.2 million square foot fulfillment center, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

## U.S. delays Treasury bill weekly auction

**The Associated Press**

The Treasury Department has delayed the weekly auction of three-month and six-month Treasury bills because of an error that occurred during testing their auction system. Treasury said that the auction that was scheduled to occur on Monday will now take place on Tuesday. Officials said that the delay was caused by an error that occurred during a systems test that impaired their ability to take bids.

Joyce Harris, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Public Debt, said that it was extremely rare for the government to postpone a regularly scheduled auction of Treasury debt. Separately, the Federal Reserve said Monday that the average yield for one-year Treasury bills, a popular index for making changes in adjustable-rate mortgages, was 0.13 percent last week, unchanged from the previous week. □

## European, U.S. authorities take control of websites

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — Europol says American and European authorities have taken control of 690 websites that were selling counterfeit merchandise.

The European police coordination agency said the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had teamed up with European law enforcement agencies and Hong Kong customs authorities to seize the sites' domain names. ICE director John Sandweg said in a statement that "counterfeiters take advantage of the holiday spirit of shoppers around the world and sell cheap fakes to unsuspecting consumers everywhere." Common articles sold on the sites included headphones, sports jerseys, grooming products, shoes and electronics. Visitors to the 297 domains seized in the U.S. and 393 others in Britain, France, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Denmark, Belgium and Hong Kong will be redirected to a warning notice. □

Cyber Monday to be the site's busiest day ever. He said 2013 is the "tipping point" for mobile traffic, which includes smartphones and tablets.

More than half of Walmart.com's traffic came from smartphones and tablets on Thanksgiving and Black Friday, Anderson said. And he expected the same to be true on Monday.

"2013 is the year online went mobile," he said.

Arthur Baynes, 30, was checking out email deals on his smartphone. The travel insurance claims adjuster from Richmond, Virginia, was looking for a new TV and Blu-Ray games for his younger relatives. "When I'm looking for something, I'll look it up on my phone and then use the Amazon app on my iPad to buy," he said Monday. "It's just easier. I don't have to sit down where my computer is." Cyber Monday comes after retailers' failed efforts to boost spending during the holiday week-

end. They offered big discounts in early November, and several opened stores on Thanksgiving Day on Thursday. But the retail federation predicts that spending fell for the first time ever, down 2.9 percent to \$57.4 billion, during the four days that ended Sunday.

About 81 percent of retailers planned to offer deals specifically for Cyber Monday, according to the NRF's online arm, called Shop.org.

The name Cyber Monday was coined in 2005 by Shop.org to push people to shop online. After retailers revved up deals for the day, it became the busiest online shopping day in 2010. But since then, more people shop online with faster Internet access, and retailers have expanded deals, stretching them into Cyber Week or even Cyber Month. This year, retailers such as Amazon and Wal-Mart rolled out online deals beginning in November. □

# Saab is back: First cars produced under new owners

**MALIN RISING**

**Associated Press**

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — Two and a half years after Saab shut down production due to financial trouble, the Swedish car rolled a new sedan off its assembly lines in Trollhattan, in south-west Sweden, on Monday.

National Electric Vehicle Sweden, the Hong Kong-based company that bought the brand out of bankruptcy in September last year, presented its new 9-3 Aero Sedan as the first in a series of new cars it will produce.

The company, also called NEVS, said the first 200 cars will be delivered in the spring and will cost 279,000 kronor (\$42,500) each. Next year, it will also launch a 9-3 wagon, followed by convertible and electric models.

Saab shut down production in April 2011 after six decades of building cars as its earlier Dutch owner,

Spyker Cars, struggled with financing. It filed for bankruptcy in December the same year, dealing a huge blow to the town of Trollhattan and the company's 3,000 employees.

NEVS now employs around 600 people, including many former Saab employees, and acting President Mattias Bergman said he felt "incredibly happy, proud and humble" that the company has been able to restart production. Bergman wouldn't give any forecast of how many cars NEVS expects to sell but said they will start on a small scale and adjust production based on order intake.

The company aims to make electric cars under the Saab brand, but said it will also provide gasoline-fuelled cars until "electric cars fully meet customer demands." It said it decided to start off with a gasoline-fuelled car to get

production going as fast as possible and retain previous supply chains and specialist staff.

It said it will start selling its cars directly to Swedish customers through its website as of Dec. 10.

The luxury sports car maker

Spyker Cars bought Saab from General Motors — itself in bankruptcy protection following the financial crisis — in 2010. At that time, Saab sales had dwindled to around 27,000 from a peak of around 133,000 cars in 2006.

GM had acquired a 50 percent stake of Saab in 1989, and gained full ownership in 2000.

The aircraft and defense company with the same name is an independent entity, building fighter jets and weapons systems. □



Reporters look at the first production Nevs (National Electric Vehicle Sweden) Saab 9-3 Aero at the Trollhattan factory in Sweden, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. NEVS bought the remains of Swedish car maker SAAB and is focusing on electric vehicles. However the first car to leave the factory after it was restarted is a gasoline fueled 220 horsepower 2.0-liter turbo.

Associated Press

# U.S. stocks fall on disappointing holiday sales

**BERNARD CONDON**

**AP Business Writers**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The final month of a stellar year for stocks began with a thud. All three major indexes closed lower Monday, the first day of trading in December. Investors sold shares on signs that American shoppers — that seemingly inexhaustible fuel of global economic growth — may hold tight to their cash this holiday season. Shoppers turned out in record numbers over the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, but plunked down less cash than they did last year. It was the first decline in Thanksgiving weekend spending since a retail trade group began tracking it in 2006.

Investors reacted by selling all types of retailer stocks, from department stores to specialty chains. J.C. Pen-

ney, Macy's and Target fell about 2 percent each. Urban Outfitters dropped nearly 4 percent.

"This holiday season is not going to be a gangbuster," said Lindsey Piegza, chief economist of Sterne Agee. "Retailers are bracing for declining activity from now to the beginning of the year."

One big exception to the retailer doldrums was Ebay, which rose 1.5 percent thanks to strong sales at its online auctions.

The Dow Jones industrial average has surged 22 percent this year and, if history holds, will add to that gain this month. The Dow has risen in December in three out of every four years going back to 1950, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac. The average gain: 1.7 percent.

On Monday, the Dow fell



In this Friday, Nov. 22, 2013, file photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Associated Press

77.64 points, or 0.5 percent, to 16,008.77. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 4.91 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,800.90. The Nasdaq composite fell 14.63 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,045.26

The government reported that developers boosted construction spending in October at the fastest pace in more than four years. A separate survey showed that manufactur-

ing activity rose at its fastest pace in 2 1/2 years.

Joseph S. Tanious, global market strategist at JPMorgan, said he was encouraged by the reports but that many investors ignored them. He said people have made too much money in the market already this year and are playing it safe by locking in gains.

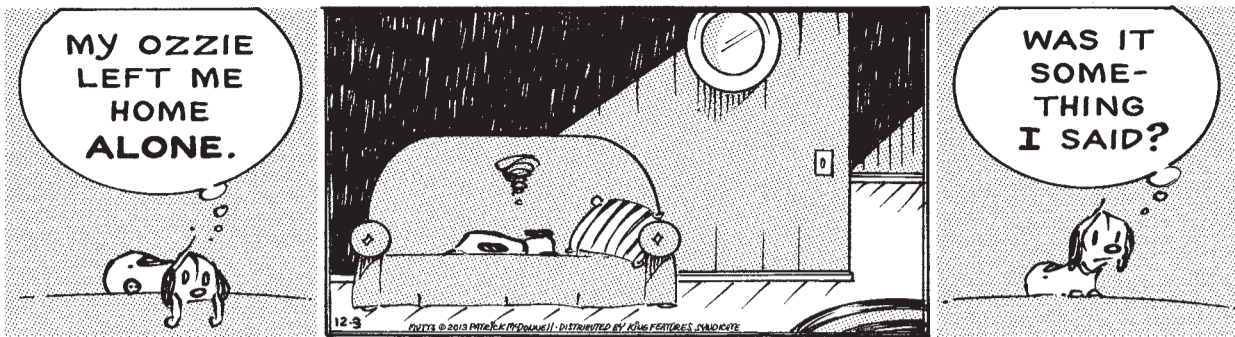
"Investors are looking for reasons to sell," Tanious

said. "But I think the markets will move higher between here and the year-end."

Stocks have soared as the economy maintains a slow but steady recovery and companies continue to increase earnings. Demand for stocks also has been bolstered by Federal Reserve purchases of \$85 billion of bonds each month. The goal is to hold down interest rates, make bonds less attractive than stocks, and stimulate the economy. Stock investors are waiting for a government report on jobs Friday for clues about whether the stimulus policy is working and when the Fed will ease off its bond purchases. Investors have sold on days when they feared a Fed pullback was imminent. In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year note climbed to 2.80 percent, from 2.75 percent. The yield was as low as 1.63 percent in early May.

Phone companies led the broader market lower Monday. Investors typically buy those stocks because they pay big dividends, providing income. □

**Mutts**



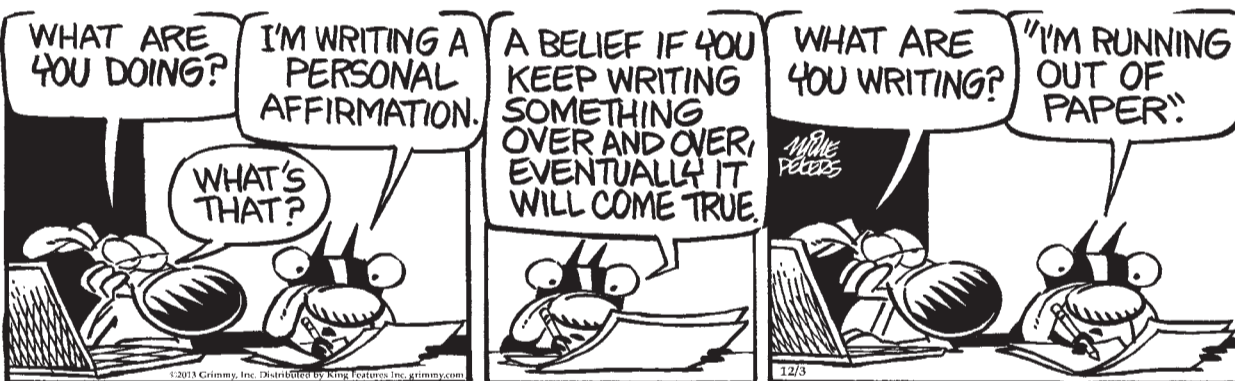
**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



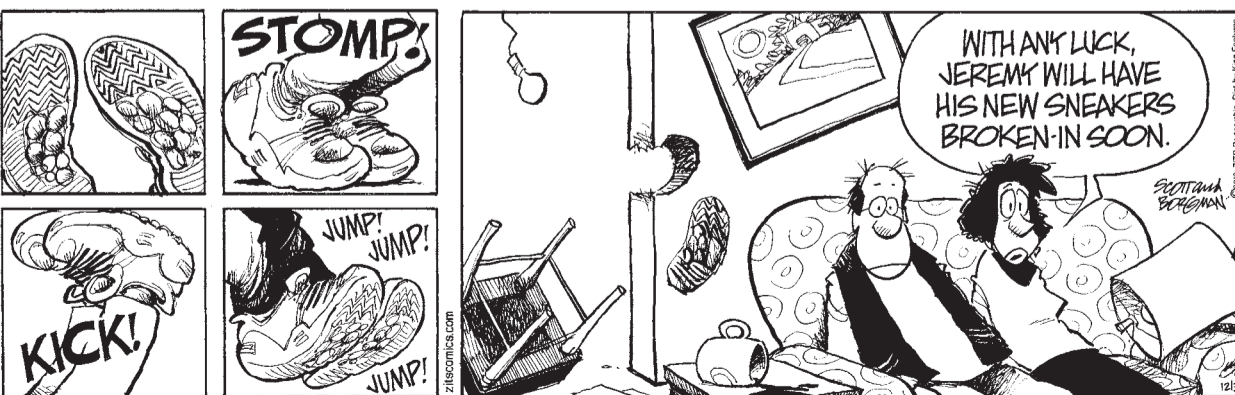
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

	9		2	7				
2			9			6		
				6		8	9	
3	4				9			
9		5		4		1		8
			6				2	9
	1	6		9				
		4			6			7
				3	1		4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/03

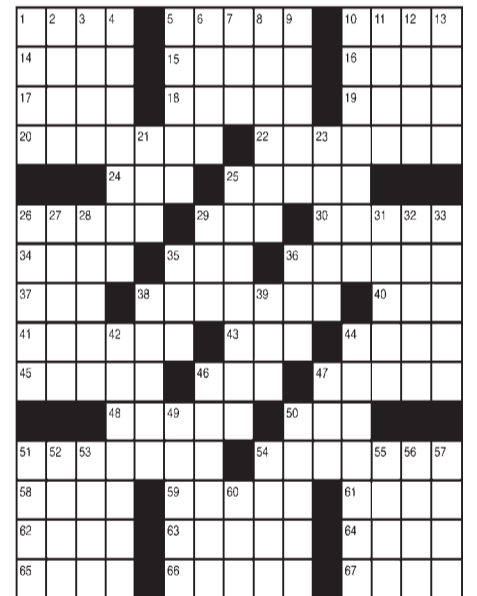
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	5	2	4	1	9	7	8	6
9	1	6	7	8	5	3	2	4
4	7	8	6	2	3	1	9	5
8	6	7	1	3	4	9	5	2
5	4	1	9	7	2	6	3	8
2	3	9	5	6	8	4	1	7
1	2	4	8	9	6	5	7	3
6	9	3	2	5	7	8	4	1
7	8	5	3	4	1	2	6	9

**ACROSS**

- 1 Apple pie à la
- 5 Alan & Cheryl
- 10 Night birds
- 14 Pinnacle
- 15 Poet T.S. —
- 16 Ring out
- 17 "As ye sow, so shall ye —"
- 18 Supermarket walkway
- 19 — oneself; work steadily
- 20 Eternal
- 22 Toiled
- 24 White —; termite
- 25 Men and boys
- 26 Plant pest
- 29 Evergreen tree
- 30 Chairs & stools
- 34 Songbird
- 35 So —; up until now
- 36 Textbook division
- 37 Have a bug
- 38 Mosque tower
- 40 Ending for Max or Paul
- 41 Refrigerator
- 43 Fish and chips fish, often
- 44 Margin
- 45 Religious doctrine
- 46 Wood layer
- 47 Make a smudge worse
- 48 Stupid
- 50 Charge
- 51 Actor Sheen
- 54 Loyal citizen
- 58 Take on, as an employee
- 59 Sentry
- 61 Vanished
- 62 Eras
- 63 Albert or Fisher
- 64 Lamb bearers
- 65 This and —
- 66 Kitchen & den
- 67 Impudent talk



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/3/13

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

COPY	HONES	STAB		
RHEA	ALAMO	NONE		
OINK	REPUDIATED			
COT	SLOE	SKEDS		
ASHES	MAE			
ESTEEM	SEASON			
AHEAD	LILAC	SOY		
TOUR	KARAT	ACME		
SEC	RECAP	BRIAN		
SHRINE	FIELDS			
ELS	VIRAL			
GAFFE	BOND	ALI		
ILLUSTRATE	STAR			
FLAT	OILER	PERK		
TYKE	EMERY	ASKS		

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**DOWN**

- 1 Stallion's mate
- 2 Unlock
- 3 No longer with us
- 4 Talk about and make clear
- 5 Minimum
- 6 Laila & her dad
- 7 Prefix for taste or satisfied
- 8 100 cents
- 9 Take illegally
- 10 Fights against
- 11 Have on
- 12 Bridal veil material
- 13 Toboggan
- 21 Finish
- 23 Attack; harass
- 25 Unexplainable cure
- 26 Look for expectantly
- 27 Cost
- 28 Hayes or Hunt
- 29 Summer blower
- 31 Set —; reserve
- 32 Island nation near Fiji
- 33 Derisive smile
- 35 Repair
- 36 Went first
- 38 Traveler's stop
- 39 Trigger's rider need, usually
- 44 Comes forth
- 46 Fake
- 47 — up; arrange
- 49 African nation
- 50 Loses color
- 51 Informal talk
- 52 As — as a kite
- 53 Region
- 54 Stiffly proper
- 55 Midwest state
- 56 Singles
- 57 Actress Harper
- 60 Fuss & bother



# Fertility doctors aim to lower rate of twin births

MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

**BOSTON (AP)** — U.S. doctors are reporting an epidemic — of twins. Nearly half of all babies born with advanced fertility help are multiple births, new federal numbers show.

In the five years since the “Octomom” case — when a California woman gave birth to octuplets — big multiple births have gone way down but the twin rate has barely budged. Twins aren’t always twice as nice; they have much higher risks of prematurity and serious health problems.

Now fertility experts are pushing a new goal: One. A growing number of couples are attempting pregnancy with just a single embryo, helped by new ways to pick the ones most likely to succeed. New guidelines urge doctors to stress this approach.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s most recent numbers show that 46 percent of IVF babies are multiples — mostly twins — and 37 percent are born premature. By comparison, only 3 percent of babies born without fertility help are twins and about 12 percent are preterm.

It’s mostly an American problem — some European countries that pay for fertility treatments require using one embryo at a time.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine is trying to make it the norm in the U.S., too. Its guidelines, updated earlier this year, say that for women with reasonable medical odds of success, those under 35 should be offered single embryo transfer and no more than two at a time. The number rises with age, to two or three embryos for women up to 40, since older women have more trouble conceiving.

Abigail and Ken Ernst of New Jersey used one embryo to conceive Lucy, a daughter born in September. Using one embryo at a time “just seemed the most normal, the most natural way” to conceive and avoid a high-risk twin preg-



In this photograph taken Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013, Ken Ernst, left, and his wife Abigail Ernst, right, pose for The Associated Press with their 2-month-old daughter, Lucy, in their Oldwick, N.J. home.

Associated Press

nancy, the new mom said. Not all couples feel that way, though. Some can only afford one try with in vitro fertilization, or IVF, so they insist that at least two embryos be used to boost their odds, and view twins as two for the price of one. Many patients “are telling their physicians ‘I want twins,’” said Barbara Colura, president of Resolve, a support and advocacy group. “We as a society think twins are healthy and always come out great. There’s very little reality” about the increased medical risks for babies and moms, she said.

The guidelines of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine say women

should be counseled on the risks of multiple births and embryo transfers and that this discussion should be noted in their medical records.

“In 2014, our goal is really to minimize twins,” said Dr. Alan Copperman, medical director of Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, a Manhattan fertility clinic.

“This year I’m talking about two versus one. Several years ago I was talking about three versus two” embryos.

The one-at-a-time idea is catching on. Only 4 percent of women under 35 used single embryos in 2007 but nearly 12 percent did in 2011. □

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### Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

# Hubble Telescope best shot at learning comet fate

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

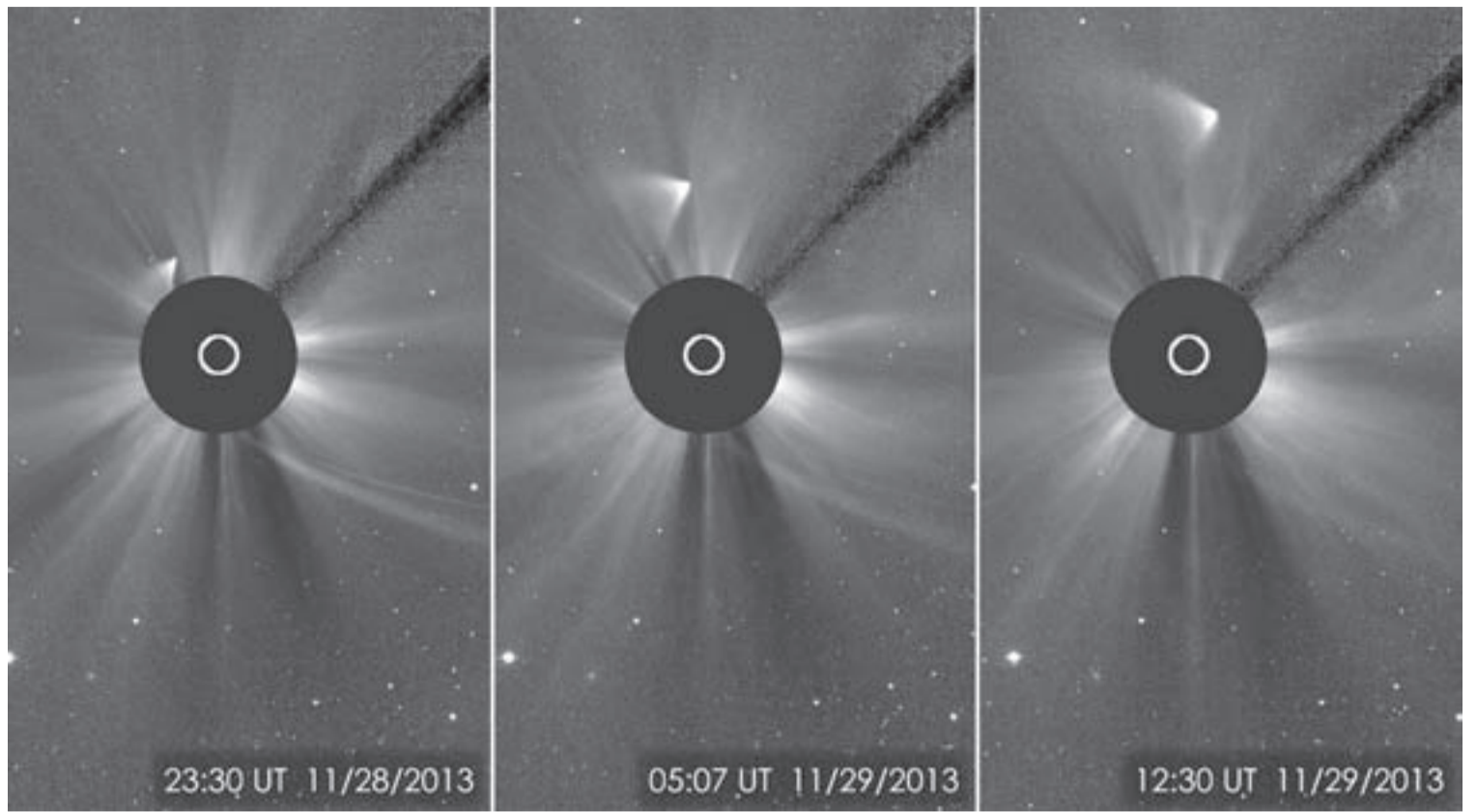
(AP) — NASA said Monday that the Hubble Space Telescope is the best bet for figuring out whether Comet ISON disintegrated during its brush with the sun last week.

A pair of solar observatories saw something emerge from around the sun following ISON's close approach on Thanksgiving Day. But scientists don't know whether the spot of light was merely the comet's shattered remains or what's left of its icy nucleus. Either way, by now, they say it may be just dust. Over the coming week or two, scientists will keep a lookout for any brightening, which could indicate what, if anything is left. Hubble should put the matter to rest in mid-December, when the comet's remains are far enough from the sun for safe viewing.

As for us earthlings, there appears to be little chance of spotting what's left of the comet with the naked eye. Whatever is left will pass closest to Earth on Dec. 26; it will keep a safe 40 million miles (64 million kilometers) away.

ISON was making its first visit to the inner solar system, after traveling from the Oort cloud on the fringes of the solar system, home to countless icy bodies, most notably the frozen balls of dust and gas in orbit around the sun known as comets.

It was discovered by Russian astronomers last year and, early on, was predicted to become the comet of the century because of its brightness. Indeed, ISON would have wowed observers if it had survived



**In this combination of three images provided by NASA, comet ISON appears as a white smear heading up and away from the sun on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, 2013. ISON was not visible during its closest approach to the sun, so many scientists thought it had disintegrated, but images like this one from the ESA/NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory suggest that a small nucleus may still be intact.**

Associated Press

the sun's fury.

NASA turned all its space eyes on the sun-grazing comet throughout the year, watching as ISON advanced ever closer. Even scientists were left wondering whether the comet would survive its encounter with the sun from just 730,000 miles (1.17 million kilometers) out.

In an online blog, the Naval Research Laboratory's Karl Battams paid tribute Monday to ISON and suggested that donations be made to astronomy clubs, observatories or charities supporting sci-

ence and math education for children. "Never one to follow convention, ISON lived a dynamic and unpredictable life, alter-

nating between periods of quiet reflection and violent outburst," Battams, an astrophysicist, wrote. "Comet ISON leaves be-

hind an unprecedented legacy for astronomers, and the eternal gratitude of an enthralled global audience." □

## China launches first moon rover, the 'Jade Rabbit'



**The Long March 3B rocket carrying the Chang'e-3 lunar probe blasts off from the launch pad at Xichang Satellite Launch Center, in southwest China's Sichuan Province on Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. China has launched its first mission to land a rover on the moon that will transmit images and survey the moon's surface. The spacecraft is expected to land in mid-December.**

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China launched its first rover mission to the moon Monday, sending a robotic craft named Jade Rabbit to

trundle across the lunar landscape, examine its geology and beam images back to Earth.

A rocket carrying the rover aboard an unmanned Chang'e 3 spaceship successfully blasted off early Monday from a launch center in southwestern China and was scheduled to arrive on the moon in mid-December, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

"We will strive for our space dream as part of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation," Xichang Satellite Launch Center director Zhang Zhenzhong said. If the Chang'e 3 successfully soft-lands on the moon, China will become the third country to do so, after the United States and the former Soviet Union. A soft landing does not damage the craft and the equipment it carries. An earlier Chinese craft orbited and collected data before intentionally crash-landing on the moon.

"Chang'e" is a mythical Chinese goddess of the

moon, and "Yutu" — or "Jade Rabbit" — is her pet. The solar-powered rover will survey the moon's geological structures and set up a telescope to survey the surface as well as observe the Earth's plasma-sphere, a region of dense, cold plasma that surrounds the planet, Xinhua said.

China sent its first astronaut into space in 2003, becoming the third nation after Russia and the United States to achieve manned space travel independently. China has already said its eventual goals are to have a space station and put an astronaut on the moon.

The military-backed space program is a source of enormous national pride and has powered ahead in a series of well-funded, methodically timed steps. It has already made major breakthroughs in a relatively short time, although it lags far behind the United States and Russia in space technology and experience. □

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## Lady Gaga unveils dolls in her flamboyant likeness

**TOKYO (AP)** — One-of-a-kind Lady Gaga has been replicated.

The pop star unveiled life-size dolls in her likeness, dressed in her flamboyant costumes, at a Tokyo event Sunday. A person leaning against the silicon doll's chest can hear Lady Gaga music and messages. Gaga said she was honored to have replicas of herself. When her friends saw the dolls, "they were so excited to take pictures of me with the dolls and then



Lady Gaga poses for a photocall with her life-sized doll during a press conference to promote her album "ARTPOP" in Tokyo, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

all of a sudden the dolls took over. And the dolls were the most important thing in the room. And this is a beautiful thing," she said. Japanese industrial and design companies teamed with her record label to create the Gagadoll, inspired by her new "Artpop" album. They're prototypes not yet available for sale. At the news conference, the 27-year-old singer made her grand entrance wearing a red plaid jumpsuit and wrapped in coils of

the same fabric. Gaga is participating in a charity auction to benefit the 2011 earthquake and tsunami victims. She's hoping that one of the two Gaga-styled Hello Kitty dolls will raise a lot of money for the cause. "Artpop" hasn't matched the critical acclaim or sales of her blockbuster "Born This Way" album. Gaga said she looked forward to returning to Japan with the "Artpop" tour. The concert schedule hasn't been released. □

## The Rascals abandon 2nd Broadway concert series

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two concert series in a year on Broadway is apparently too much for The Rascals: The '60s-era blue-eyed soul quartet has abandoned plans to play the Marquis Theatre this month.

In a statement released Monday, the band said a scheduling conflict with producer Stevie Van Zandt prompted the cancellation of a series of shows set to run from Dec. 16 to Jan. 5.

Full refunds are available.

Van Zandt is filming of the third season of his Netflix show "Lilyhammer" and touring with Bruce Springsteen.

"The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream" — featuring the songs "Good Lovin,'" "People Got to Be Free" and "I've Been Lonely Too Long" performed by the original members — played at the Richard Rodgers Theatre earlier this year. □

## New Zealand airline reveals image of Hobbit dragon

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)** — New Zealand's national airline unveiled a giant image Monday of the dragon Smaug on one of its planes to celebrate the premiere of the second movie in the Hobbit trilogy. Air New Zealand showed the 54-meter (177-foot) image that's featured on both sides of a Boeing 777-300 aircraft.



In this photo taken on Friday, Nov. 29, 2013, released by Air New Zealand, an image of the dragon Smaug from Peter Jackson's Hobbit trilogy, is shown on the side of an Air New Zealand plane in Auckland, New Zealand.

Associated Press

The plane is scheduled to fly to Los Angeles in time for the premiere of "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," which screens Monday, Pacific Standard Time at the Dolby Theatre. It was the first time fans got a chance to see director Peter Jackson's interpretation of Smaug. In the first movie, the director revealed only the dragon's eye.

The Hobbit trilogy was filmed in New Zealand and is based on the book of the

same name by J.R.R. Tolkien.

The movie opens in theaters in mid-December.

The image is a decal, or giant sticker, produced by special effects studio Weta Digital, which also worked on the movie.

Air New Zealand spokesman Andrew Aitken said it

intends to keep the decal on the plane for at least a year, until the opening of the third Hobbit movie. The airline also used a decal to celebrate the opening of the first movie.

New Zealand has sought to use the popularity of the movies as a way to market itself and boost tourism. □

## Jennifer Lopez to receive March of Dimes parenting honor



This July 26, 2013 file photo shows singer and actress Jennifer Lopez at the "Viva Movil by Jennifer Lopez" flagship store grand opening in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

**JESSICA HERNDON**  
AP Film Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Jenni-

fer Lopez is being honored by the March of Dimes.

Lopez, the 44-year-old

mother of 5-year-old twins, Maximilian and Emme, will receive the Grace Kelly Award at the eighth annual March of Dimes luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Friday. She's being recognized as a celebrity parent role model supporting women giving birth to healthy babies after full-term pregnancies.

The 75-year-old nonprofit organization aims to prevent birth defects, premature births and infant mortality.

A&E networks President and CEO Nancy Dubuc and Dr. Balaji Govindaswami, chief of newborn medicine at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, will also be honored.

Lopez said in a statement: "As a mother myself, I am aware of the importance of healthful pregnancies and babies."

Reese Witherspoon was honored at last year's event. □

# The Coens abide: Joel & Ethan on refusing maturity

**JAKE COYLE**

**AP Film Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — “If you’re trying to assign the trait of maturity to us, frankly, it won’t wash.”

A conversation with the filmmaking brothers Ethan and Joel Coen has only just gotten started when Ethan, quite gleefully, puts a stop to any discussion of growth, evolution or development. Now in their late 50s, the Coens have a host of awards, including best picture for their tense, bone-dry Cormac McCarthy adaptation “No Country for Old Men.” Their last film, the much Oscar-nominated Charles Portis adaptation “True Grit,” was an unexpected box-office hit, earning \$250 million worldwide. Somewhat shockingly, they are — to use the much sought-after label in their “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” — bona fide.

Their latest, the folk music tale “Inside Llewyn Davis,” continues the trend of awards-season releases with more realism than, say, the screwball of “The Hudsucker Proxy” or the surrealism of “The Big Lebowski.” The Coens don’t dismiss the trend. They just

predict its imminent expiration date.

“If you’re trying to make a developmental statement about us,” Ethan explains, “it might not ...”

“It might not stand the test of the next movie,” says Joel, finishing the sentence. They chuckle with tickled delight, like boys who are getting away with something, at the thought of their next opus. (More on that later.)

For now, there’s “Inside Llewyn Davis,” the latest zag in a career full of wholly unpredictable hopscotching through noir (“Blood Simple,” “Miller’s Crossing”), farce (“Burn After Reading,” “The Ladykillers”) and less categorical quandaries (“A Serious Man”).

Tracking the Coens is, famously, a fool’s game. What leads them down Los Angeles bowling alleys? Or into a ‘50s-era barber shop? Aided by the Dave Van Ronk memoir “The Mayor of MacDougal Street,” they arrived at specifically 1960-61 Greenwich Village for “Inside Llewyn Davis” because it exists on the cusp of history, ahead of Bob Dylan’s arrival.

Oscar Isaac stars as the title character, a folk guitar player and singer whose beautiful playing is contrasted by his foul-mouthed, cynical downtown life, which he spends hopping from couch to couch, gig

with editors working on the bottom floor on a concert documentary of the movie’s music, to air on Showtime on Dec. 13. To accommodate a reporter, Ethan lugged a chair up to the small top-floor perch

behind Gerde’s Folk City and somebody beats the (expletive) out of Dave Van Ronk?” says Ethan, while Joel laughs. “That’s the beginning of what movie?”

They start most films in this unusually specific way. “Miller’s Crossing” began with a hat floating away into the woods. “Burn After Reading” started when they pronounced that they would never, ever open a film “CIA Headquarters: Langley, Virginia.” But the sheer antithesis of the idea became its greatest attraction: They peopled their version of a hyper-techno spy thriller with the most emphatically human characters.

Some openings don’t immediately lead anywhere. They had the start of “O Brother” — “three dopes chained together” — but didn’t know where it went for three or four years. “Far-go” got stuck midway: “For a year and a half, I would open up the drawer and it would say: ‘Interior: Shep’s apartment. Carl is screwing the escort,’” Joel recalls. Often, their genre hopping is predicated more on books than movies. □



**Directors Joel Coen, right, and Ethan Coen attend the premiere of “Inside Llewyn Davis” during the 51st New York Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013 in New York. Associated Press**

to gig. The Coens, with T Bone Burnett, fill the film with full performances of less famous songs from the era, all but one of which was filmed live (rather than to playback). On a recent fall afternoon, the Coens granted an interview with The Associated Press at their Tribeca office, a narrow three-story apartment

where the brothers brainstorm and script.

From here their movies are born, generated from the pingponging between their similarly imaginative, comic minds.

“We were just sitting around the office talking about nothing, as we do, and (Joel) said, ‘OK, supposing it begins in an alley



**This file publicity image released by The O+M Company shows Billy Porter during a performance of “Kinky Boots.”**

**Associated Press**

**MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Thanksgiving was rough on turkeys but pretty good for Broadway theaters — several shows broke records over the holiday weekend, from new kid on the block “Kinky Boots” to the old ruler “The Lion King.”

Even William Shakespeare joined the party, with his “Twelfth Night” and “Richard III” playing in repertory

led by Mark Rylance shattering an 8-year-old record at the Belasco Theatre.

The Broadway League released data Monday that showed the 32 shows on the Great White Way earned more than \$31 million, with an average paid admission of \$120. So far, this season’s haul stands at more than \$620 million, much better than the \$576 million earned at this time last season, although at-

tendance still lags.

“Kinky Boots,” which won the 2013 Tony Award for best musical, grossed \$1.9 million over eight performances during the week ending Sunday, smashing the all-time house record at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. It beat out the crown held there in January 2012 by the revival of “How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” which had one more performance.

The circus-themed revival of “Pippin,” which announced Monday that it had recouped its \$8.5 million investment, reported that it had also beaten its own Music Box Theatre house record for a single show, earning about \$151,000 on Friday night.

“Motown the Musical,” the story of Motown founder

Berry Gordy and featuring an astonishing Motown catalog, took in \$1.5 million over eight shows last week, the show’s best week ever and a record for the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

“The Lion King” shows no signs of losing its roar — the show netted \$2.3 million, setting a house record for an eight-performance week at the Minskoff Theatre. The show, celebrating its 16th year, passed “Les Miserables” on Saturday to become the fourth longest-running show on Broadway.

The Rylance-led “Twelfth Night” and “Richard III” grossed about \$826,000, despite setting aside 2,000 seats a week for students for \$25. Its haul easily beat the theater’s last box-office ruler, “Julius Caesar,”

another Shakespeare classic starring Denzel Washington that earned nearly \$755,000.

A revival of Harold Pinter’s “Betrayal” starring Rachel Weisz, Daniel Craig and Rafe Spall did what it seems destined to do: break another record at the Barrymore Theatre with a haul of \$1.2 million.

Even “Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark,” whose numbers have lately slumped, gained more than \$651,000 more than the previous week, and brought in \$1.4 million. Of course, “Wicked” remained the top week’s earner with a staggering \$2.6 million over nine performances, followed by “The Lion King” and in third spot “The Book of Mormon” with \$2.1 million. □

## Broadway gobbles up Thanksgiving records

# For Some Folks, Life Is A Hill



**Charles M. Blow**  
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I strongly reject the concept of respectability politics, which postulates that a style of dress or speech justifies injustice, and often violence, against particular groups of people or explains away the ravages of their inequality. I take enormous exception to arguments about the "breakdown of the family," particularly the black family, that don't acknowledge that this country for centuries has endeavored, consciously and not, to break it down. Or that family can be defined only one way. I don't buy into the mythology that most poor people are willfully and contentedly poor, happy to live with the help of handouts from a benevolent big government that is equally happy to keep them dependent. These are all arguments based on shame, meant to distance traditional power structures from emerging ones, to allow for draconian policy arguments from supposedly caring people. These arguments require faith in personal failure as justification for calling our fellow citizens feckless or doctrinally disfavored. Those who espouse such arguments must root for failures so that they're proved right. They need their worst convictions to be affirmed: that other people's woes are due solely to their bad choices and bad behaviors; that there are no systematic suppressors at play; that the way to success is wide open to all those who would only choose it. Any of us in the country who were born poor, or minority, or female, or otherwise different - particularly in terms of gender or sexual identity - know better. Misogyny and sexism, racism, income inequality, patriarchy, and homophobia and heteronormative ideals course through the culture like a pathogen in the blood, infecting the whole of the being beneath the surface. So it is to the people with challenges that I would like to speak today. I know your pains

and your struggles. I share them. It is incredibly dispiriting when people are dismissive of the barriers we must overcome simply to make it to equal footing. I know. It is infuriating when people offer insanely naïve solutions to our suffering: "Stop whining and being a victim!" I know. But I also would like to share with you the way I've learn to deal with it, hoping that maybe it will offer you some encouragement. I decided long ago to achieve as an act of defiance - to define my own destiny and refuse to have it defined for me. I fully understand that trying hard doesn't always guarantee success. Success is often a fluky thing, dependent as much on luck and favor as on hard work. But while hard work may not guarantee success, not working hard almost always guarantees failure. I frame the argument to myself this way: If you know that you are under assault, recognize it, and defend yourself. Trying hard and working hard is its own reward. It feeds the soul. It affirms your will and your power. And it radiates from you, lighting the way for all those who see you. When I am asked to give speeches, I often include this analogy: For some folks, life is a hill. You can either climb or stay at the bottom. It's not fair. It's not right. But it is so. Some folks are born halfway up the hill and others on the top. The rest of us are not. Life doles out favors in differing measures, often as a result of historical injustice and systematic bias. That's a hurtful fact, one that must be changed. We should all work toward that change. In the meantime, until that change is real, what to do if life gives you the hill? You can curse it. You can work hard to erode it. You can try to find a way around it. Those are all understandable endeavors. Staying at the bottom is not. You may be born at the bottom, but the bottom was not born in you. You have it within you to be better than you were, to make more of your life than was given to you by life. This is not to say that we can always correct life's inequities, but simply that we honor ourselves in the trying. History is cluttered with instances of the downtrodden lifting themselves up. The spirit and endurance that it requires is not a historical artifact but a living thing that abides in each of us, part of the bloodline, written in the tracks of tears and the sweat of toil. If life for you is a hill, be a world-class climber. □



# The Almost Year-End Quiz



**Gail Collins**  
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Once we get past Thanksgiving, the year is pretty much over, right? There's hardly anything left of 2013 - just ask the House of Representatives, which has a grand total of four full workdays remaining on the calendar. It's really not too soon to start looking back over where we've been. So much 2013 to remember: the government shutdown, Miley Cyrus, the Obamacare website, "Smurfs 2," Ted Cruz. Before you block it all away forever, let's see how much you can recall in this Almost Year-End Quiz. In the spirit of the season, there are a few unfair trick questions hidden in the pile.

- We now know that President Barack Obama travels with a special tent that can:
  - Create an eavesdropping-proof cone of silence in any hotel room.
  - Reduce expenses by housing low-level aides in the parking lot.
  - Screen out pollen during hay-fever season.
  - Attract publicity for the administration's Yurts for Peace Program.
- The "Fliner headlock" is:
  - Professional wrestling move that has been banned in Wisconsin.
  - Gigantic black hole in the

Andromeda galaxy that may be moving our way.

- Hold used on female staffers by the ousted mayor of San Diego.
- Popular anti-car-theft device marketed on TV by former Sen. Fred Thompson.

- Just before the government shutdown, Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., compared himself and his fellow repeal-Obamacare rebels to:
  - Brad Pitt in "World War Z."
  - Sandra Bullock in "Gravity."
  - Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King.
  - Everybody at the Alamo.
- Another Republican representative, Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania, compared John Boehner to:
  - Charlton Heston parting the Red Sea.
  - Kanye West at the MTV Video Music Awards.
  - George Washington crossing the Delaware.
  - Jesus on Palm Sunday.
- In the Virginia gubernatorial race, Ken Cuccinelli attempted to brand his opponent as a blowhard with the slogan:
  - "All puppy and no plan."
  - "All bunny and no basics."
  - "All otters and no organization."
  - "All cats and no categories."
- Cuccinelli's opponent, Terry McAuliffe, won the governorship despite his background as a proud Democratic Party fundraiser. McAuliffe bragged in his autobiography that when his fifth child was born he:
  - Left the hospital before the delivery to attend a Washington Post party.
  - Hit up the delivery room nurses for a donation to the Congressional Campaign Committee.
  - Named the baby "Bundler."
  - Stopped at a fundraising event while driving home from the hospital, leaving his infant son and weeping wife in the car.
- Neil Riser, a Louisiana state senator who was backed by

both the Tea Party and the political establishment, lost a special congressional election to Vance McAllister, who was best known for:
 

- Being confused with heavy metal guitarist Vince McAllister.
- Never having set foot in Washington.
- Being endorsed by Phil Robertson, duck call maker and star of the reality show "Duck Dynasty."
- Saying it was a waste of time to keep voting to repeal Obamacare.

- Which of the following did Sen. Rand Paul not do this year:
- Delivered an impassioned speech at a congressional hearing about the poor performance of his toilet.
- Claimed the FDA is "coming after your doughnuts."
- Agreed to headline the opening of the Republican Party's new African-American Engagement Office in Detroit.
- Got caught plagiarizing from Wikipedia, a Heritage Foundation report, a Cato Institute journal and an article in The Week.
- Which of the following did Gov. Chris Christie not do this year:
- Scheduled a special senatorial election for a Wednesday in October so it wouldn't divert attention from his own re-election two weeks later.
- Chased a heckler down the boardwalk, waving an ice cream cone.
- Invested \$4.7 million in federal post-Sandy relief funds on "Stronger Than the Storm" TV ads starring Chris Christie.
- Asked what he'd do if he was a U.S. senator, said "I'd kill myself."

Answers: 1-A, 2-C, 3-C, 4-D, 5-A, 6-D (McAuliffe also left the delivery room to go to a Post party, but that was for his fourth baby), 7-C (All four did come up, but the Duck endorsement grabbed the headlines), 8-A (The toilet speech was in 2011), 9-B (The ice cream cone incident was in 2012). □

# Calif. Arab sparks debate over US ethnic mascots

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — On game days in a town named Thermal, where date farms and desert surroundings evoke the Middle East and nearby communities have names like Mecca and Oasis, fans cheer a high school team known as the Arabs.

A belly dancer jiggles on center court. And a black-haired, mustached mascot wearing a head scarf rallies the crowd.

At least that's the way it was done for decades in the community 120 miles (193 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles until Arab-Americans recently objected to a hook-nosed, snarling image used to represent Coachella Valley High School.



iar Indian controversy has gained increased heat.

Last year, Oregon's Board of Education decided to cut state funding to schools that fail to retire their Native American mascots, while Wisconsin passed a law in 2010 that forces schools to drop race-based mascots if a complaint is filed and the practice is found discriminatory.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama said if he owned the National Football League's Washington Redskins he would consider altering the team's name, winning praise from Native American groups that have led rallies and run ads pushing for the change.

"The things that we once did are now viewed clearly as inappropriate and wrong, and that is the hardest thing for so many who don't want to let go of yesterday — but it is the reality," said E. Newton Jackson, a professor of sport management at University of North Florida.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee complained last month that the Coachella Valley mascot perpetuates negative stereotypes of Arabs and Arab-Americans after one of its members raised questions about the image. The move prompted a community-wide debate and the school district formed a committee to redesign the mascot in a more flattering light.

"When you get into trying to characterize any ethnic group, I think you're crossing into a danger zone, and you're bound to offend individuals," said Abed Ayoub, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's director of legal and policy affairs. "You have this caricature that's supposed to represent Arabs but really does not. The look is very orientalist, very demeaning — it's just not who we are."

The mascot was chosen in the early 20th century and "never intended to dishonor or ridicule anyone," district superintendent Darryl Adams wrote in a letter to the local Desert Sun newspaper. □

**In this Nov. 8, 2013 photo, the Coachella Valley High School Arab mascot, right, is walks the sideline with Coachella's genie mascot during the Victory Bell game at Indio High School, in Indio, Calif. Arab-Americans recently objected to the hook-nosed, snarling image used to represent Coachella Valley High School. The school has agreed to give the mascot a makeover, but not to drop the nickname.**

Associated Press

The school has agreed to give the mascot a makeover, but not to drop the nickname.

"We're still going to stick with the Arab," said school board president Lowell Kemper after scores of residents defended the tradition dating back generations. "It's just a matter of whether we have a change in the caricature of the mascot."

It's a twist on a decades-old issue that has centered primarily on Native American mascots, logos and nicknames and has transformed Indians to Cardinals at Stanford University and Chieftains to Redhawks at Seattle University. But the Arab debate spurs the same set of questions: Is it possible to craft a mascot in the image of an ethnic group that doesn't offend, or are schools better off scrapping the idea altogether? The debate comes as the more famil-

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